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EPIC COLLECTION

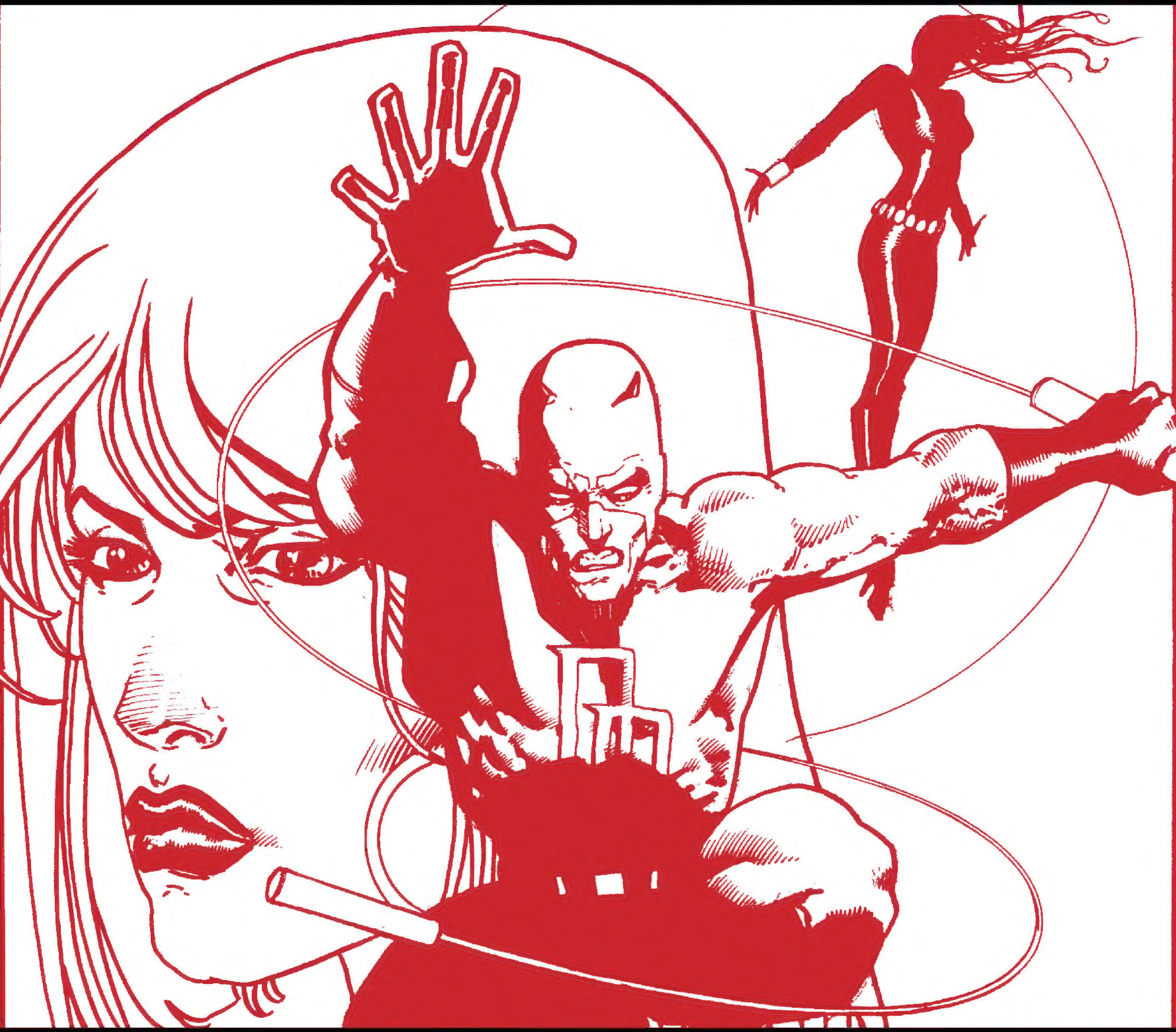
DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR

WIDOW'S KISS

KELLY • LOBDELL • COLAN • OLIVETTI • HAMNER • MORGAN

EPIC COLLECTION



DAREDEVIL
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DAREDEVIL

WIDOW'S KISS

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"JUST ONE GOOD STORY"

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MARVEL® COMICS
DD
DAREDEVIL®
JUN '97 365
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT, DD--
--DON'T MESS WITH THE MOLTEN MAN!™

OSBORN CHEMICAL 8:15 AM.
BIG DAY TODAY, VIN... BIG DAY.
YES IT IS, SIR. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT THE BOOT LICKING QUOTIENT TO BE AT THE MEETING?
HMMM. PROBABLY ABOUT AN EIGHT. WILLIAMS WON'T LET THE BOARD GET OUT OF HAND.
COURSE, IT OUGHTTA BE A FIFTEEN FOR ALL THE GARBAGE THEY PUT ME THROUGH.
BUT I AIN'T GONNA THINK ABOUT THAT TODAY. AIN'T GONNA LET NOTHING RUIN MY MOOD...
...'CAUSE TODAY, EVERYONE WILL KNOW, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT MARK RAXTON IS A STAND-UP GUY!
GOODBYE, MOLTEN MAN, HELLO RESPECT!
I BELIEVE HE'LL REST IN PEACE, SIR...
...THANKS TO A LITTLE HELP FROM DAREDEVIL!
YEAH, THE OL' HORNHEAD REALLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME. NOT EVERYONE WOULD TAKE A CHANCE LIKE THAT --
-- AW GEEZ. WILL YA LOOK AT ME HERE...
...I CAN GO FIFTEEN ROUNDS WITH SPIDER-MAN, TWIST STEEL PIPING LIKE STRING, OR MELT A 747 INTA SLAG...
...BUT I STILL CAN'T GET THE HANG OF SILK TIES.
TOOK MY PAROLE OFFICER THREE WEEKS TO TEACH ME HOW TO DO IT, BUT NOW I CAN TIE A WINDSOR KNOT IN MY SLEEP!
AND NOW LOOK AT YOU! RIGHT-HAND MAN TO THE MANAGER OF OSBORN CHEMICALS! NOT TOO SHABBY FOR AN EX-CON.
THANK YOU, SIR.

HARD WORKIN'. STRAIGHT SHOOTIN'... NOWHERE T'GO BUT *UP* FER YOU, VIN.
THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO SAY, SIR.
I AIN'T JUST *YAPPIN'*, VINCENT. I KNOW WHEN EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS RIPPIN' OFF THE COMPANY, *YOU* SPOKE UP FOR ME --
-- EVEN THOUGH IT COULDA' MEANT YOUR *JOB*.
LOYALTY LIKE THAT... *FAITH*... IT MEANS A LOT IN THIS WORLD, VIN.
IN FACT, AT OSBORN, IT MEANS A *PROMOTION*.
A PROMOTION WHOA! Mr. RAXTON, I --
HEY, WE *EX-CONS* GOTTA HELP EACH OTHER OUT, RIGHT?
BESIDES, DD TRUSTED *ME*... ONLY SEEMS RIGHT TA RETURN THE FAVOR, Y'KNOW? LIKE *KARMA*.
DON'T BE LATE FOR THE MEETING, VIN.
I WON'T, SIR. BYE... AND THANKS!
IS THAT A KICK OR WHAT? VINNIE GRAZIA WITH AN HONEST TO GOD PROMOTION!
MY WIFE'S NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS! MY *PAROLE* OFFICER'S NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
WELCOME TO THE *GOOD* LIFE, VINNIE. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

DD 8:25 AM. SOHO. NEW YORK CITY.
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR Stan Lee PRESENTS
A QUESTION OF TRUST
NEW YORK CITY IS INFAMOUS FOR ITS GLUT OF CRYPTIC STREET SIGNS.
SOME WOULD ARGUE THAT IT TAKES A DEGREE FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY AND A PENTIUM PROCESSOR TO DECIPHER MOST OF THE PARKING REGULATIONS.
AS A RESULT, MANY NEW YORKERS CHOOSE TO IGNORE THE MARKERS AND PRAY FOR A SYMPATHETIC EAR IN COURT.
TAKE MY HAND!
BUT IGNORANCE OF THE LAW DOESN'T GET YOU VERY FAR WITH A TRAFFIC JUDGE.
IT DOESN'T HELP MUCH UNDER A COLLAPSED WATER MAIN THIRTY FEET BELOW HOUSTON STREET, EITHER.
CARY NORD PENCILER...
MATT RYAN INKER...
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORIST...
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS...
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR...
AND... BOB HARRAS CHIEF...
...WELCOME ABOARD, DD'S NEW SCRIBE: JOE KELLY!
WITH SPECIAL THANKS AND BEST REGARDS TO KARL KESEL AND JAMES FELDER.
Matthew Ryan

[redacted]

IN CASE YOU'VE EVER WONDERED, THE SIGN, "HOLLOW SIDEWALK: DO NOT PARK" ACTUALLY SERVES A LOGICAL PURPOSE.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU DRIVE A THREE TON GARBAGE TRUCK.
GO ON, LOUIE! GRAB HIM!
GET YOUR SCRAWNY BUTT TOPSIDE, STRING-BEAN!
GENTLEMEN, THIS IS HARDLY AS EASY AS I MAKE IT LOOK --
-- SO IF ONE OF YOU WOULD KINDLY GET A MOVE ON --
YOU GOT KIDS! YOU GO FIRST!
NO WAY, LOUIE, I AIN'T NO COWARD!
I BELIEVE THIS DISPLAY OF KINDNESS IS WHAT THEY CALL A NEW YORK MOMENT --
-- ONE DESTINED TO BE SHORT-LIVED.
KRONNK
THE SOUND IS UNMISTAKABLE. CORRODED STEEL BUCKLING. RUST GRINDING AGAINST GRAVITY.
WE HAVE ABOUT NINETY SECONDS BEFORE THE WHOLE SHEBANG GIVES WAY...
...I STAY OPTIMISTIC...
NOW I DON'T WANT YOU TODDLING OFF, LOUIE! I HEAR THERE'S ALLIGATORS DOWN HERE.
OKAY... I AIN'T MOVIN...
...ALTHOUGH, REALLY, IT'S A WONDER ALL OF NEW YORK CITY DOESN'T COLLAPSE.
JUST HURRY... PLEASE...
IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE IS HELD UP BY FAITH.

FAITH THAT YOUR FELLOW NEW YORKERS WON'T LEAVE YOU HANGING --
-- NO MATTER **WHAT** THE **PRESS** SAYS ABOUT THEM...
...FAITH THAT THE BILLS GET PAID. THAT THE SUN COMES UP. THAT THE YANKEES WILL WIN AGAIN...
...FAITH THAT HEROES **ALWAYS** RETURN.
IN AN INSTANT, THAT **BELIEF** IS TESTED. MY **HYPER-SENSES** PAINT THE SCENE THIRTY FEET BELOW --
-- FEEL THE VIBRATION OF **WRENCHING** METAL THROUGH MY FINGERS. HEAR LOUIE'S MUFFLED **GRUNT**. SMELL CONCRETE **DUST**.
I DON'T NEED **EYES** TO FIGURE OUT THAT MY MATH WAS OFF **BIG TIME**.
WHICH IS A GOOD THING...
HOW LONG IS THIS CABLE?
'BOUT A HUNDERT YARDS -- HEY, WHAT'RE YOU --?
FSSSH
JUST A TAD LONG... BE A PAL AND PULL THE BREAK AS FAST AS YOU CAN, WOULD YOU? **SUPER**.
HOLEE -- DAREDEVIL! THE **WINCH?!**
KACHINK
...CONSIDERING MY EYES **DON'T WORK** ANYMORE.

A SECOND OF FRICTION AS I PUSH FROM THE ASPHALT CEILING... AND THEN JUST SPACE.
THE FORCE OF THE RUSHING TORRENT HASTENS MY CONTROLLED DESCENT...
...RADAR SENSE KEEPS ME ON TARGET...
...AND SOMETHING ELSE MAKES MAKE SMILE IN SPITE OF IT ALL.
AS I REACH OUT THROUGH THE MIST, I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE...
...LOUIE NEVER SCREAMS.
SURE, HE SUCKS IN AN INVOLUNTARY BREATH, HIS HEART BEAT IS OFF THE MAP, BUT STILL, HE JUST HANGS THERE IN THE DARK...
WAITING QUIETLY, DEFIANTLY.
DARING ME TO PROVE THAT HIS FAITH IN THIS CITY, IN ITS HEROES, IS WELL-FOUNDED... THAT HE'S NO FOOL.
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MAYBE HE GOT HUNG UP SOMEWHERE?!" WHERE IS MATT MURDOCK?!

THE WARM AND FUZZY LAW OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON, AND MURDOCK.
Uh, WELL...ROSALIND, I'M JUST SAYING IT'S GOTTA BE TOUGH SOMETIMES FOR MATT TO GET ACROSS TOWN, BEING A BLIND GUY AND ALL --
IF IT IS SO DIFFICULT, FRANKLIN, THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR PLAYMATE HE SHOULD LEAVE FOR WORK EARLIER...
...OR SOON HE WON'T HAVE A REASON TO LEAVE HOME AT ALL!
WHAT CAN I DO TO COVER FOR HIM? WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED DOING I'M SURE I CAN --
FWAP
MEMO TO FRANKLIN NELSON: YOU WILL HAVE NO OPINION OF YOUR OWN LEGAL EXPERTISE BESIDES THE ONE I ASSIGN TO YOU.
UNDERSTOOD? SPLENDID.
F.Y.I. AN IMPORTANT, ALBEIT SOMEWHAT GRATING, CLIENT REQUIRES LEGAL SUPPORT FOR A BUSINESS MEETING --
PING
--AND I THINK YOU'LL AGREE THAT MATTHEW IS FAR BETTER SUITED TO THE TASK THAN YOU ARE.
WHO'S THE CLIENT -- ULP?!
GOOD MORNING, Ms. OSBORN! SO WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
CIVIL PLEASANTRIES, AND SO EARLY TOO? COLOR ME IMPRESSED, Ms. SHARPE.
Oh... MORNING, FOGGY.
Uh...LIZ, WOW -- I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CALL YOU --
HOPE YOU DIDN'T TRY TOO HARD. I WASN'T ANSWERING.
I ASSUME THAT THIS IS MERE UNPLEASANT COINCIDENCE, ROSALIND, AND FOGGY IS NOT MY LEGAL SUPPORT FOR TODAY?

OF COURSE, LIZ, FOGGY ALREADY HAS HIS HANDS FULL WITH SOME OF OUR --
-- MORE **PRESTIGIOUS** CLIENTS.
NO, I'M **NOT!** THIS ISN'T EVEN MY WORK! SEE --!
HEY, WHERE'D I PUT THOSE FILES...
THAT'S **ABSOLUTELY** FINE WITH ME.
LIZ, I'VE BEEN TRYING FOR **DAYS** TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED AT THE **CLUB** -- GIVE A GUY HIS DAY IN COURT BEFORE YOU **CONDEMN** HIM!
YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING, FOGGY. IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE **EXCLUSIVE** OR ANYTHING.
YOU CAN SEE WHOEVER YOU WANT... AND I CAN USE **WHATEVER** COUNSEL I CHOOSE.
I **DO** HAVE TO EXPLAIN, LIZ, BECAUSE YOU'RE **IMPORTANT** TO ME! READ MY **LIPS, NOTHING** HAPPENED WITH **NIOMI BRINKE!**
SNAP
MISS BRINKE! WHY, FRANKLIN, I COMPLETELY FORGOT!
SUNNY, FETCH ME THE **PACKAGE** THAT CAME FOR FRANKLIN.
AREN'T THEY SIMPLY **GORGEOUS?**
THE FRAGRANCE IS TRULY AROMATIC, Ms. SHARPE.
Oh, LOOK, A CARD! **"DEAREST FOGGY -- I HOPE THAT YOU ARE MAN ENOUGH TO ACCEPT FLOWERS FROM A MODEL!"** TEE-HEE...
"HUGGIE-KISSIES, NIOMI." ADORABLE, NO?
HUGGIE-KISSIES? WHAT THE HECK DOES **THAT** MEAN?
I'D BE MORE CONFUSED ABOUT THE **"MAN ENOUGH"** PART MYSELF! **HMMPH!**

LIZ, WAIT!
GOOD MORNING EVERYONE. SORRY I'M LATE. HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT --
ON THE CONTRARY, MATTHEW! YOUR TIMING COULDN'T BE BETTER!
COME ON, COUNSELOR. WE'RE LATE FOR A MEETING AT OSBORN CHEMICAL!
WE? I THOUGHT FOGGY WAS --
"WAS" IS THE OPERATIVE TERM HERE, NO MATTER HOW YOU PLANNED TO END THAT SENTENCE... IT'S "WAS".
WAIT. THIS IS NOT US MAKING UP. NOT AT ALL.
FAR BE IT FROM ME TO BUTT IN --
THEN DON'T. WHY ARE YOU SO WET?
STOOD TOO CLOSE TO A PUDDLE WAITING FOR MY BUS. YOUR TURN.
FINE. A SUPERMODEL SENT YOUR FRIEND HUGGIE-KISSIES.
Oh... THAT MAKES SENSE.
WHAT A WAY TO START THE DAY! NOTHING LIKE A PUBLIC SNIT TO GET THE BLOOD PUMPING.
OKAY, PEOPLE! LET'S RACK UP SOME BILLABLE HOURS, SHALL WE?
SIGH I'M JUST GONNA GO PUT THESE IN WATER...
...FOLLOWED BY MY HEAD.

OSBORN CHEMICAL. THE BOARD ROOM.
WE REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING ON WITH THIS... LITTLE GET-TOGETHER OF YOURS, RAXTON.
AW, DON'T HAVE A DAIRY FARM, WILLIAMS! YOUR PLATE OF CROW WILL STILL BE WARM IN FIVE MINUTES.
THIS IS MY DAY, AND IF I SAY WE WAIT FOR LIZ T'SHOW UP, WE WAIT!
VINCENZO, MY BOY! GRAB A CHAIR!
ANY WORD FROM MY STEP-SISTER YET?
Y-YES, SIR... SHE CALLED AHEAD... SHE'LL BE ARRIVING WITH Mr. MURDOCK ANY MOMENT NOW.
I THOUGHT FOGGY NELSON WAS GONNA COME WITH HER. AFTER ALL, HE'S THE ONE WHO GOT ME IN GOOD WITH DAREDEVIL!
OH, WELL... HEY, YOU ALRIGHT, KID?
YES S-SIR... WHY?
YER A LITTLE GREEN AROUND THE GILLS. LIKE YOU RAN INTA ME IN A DARK ALLEY OR SOMETHIN'! HA!
NO -- I -- I DON'T KNOW WHY, SIR... MAYBE I'M ILL...
WELL, TRY AN' HOLD YOUR LUNCH FOR THE MEETING. AFTER THAT YOU CAN TAKE THE DAY OFF.
I MEAN, I WOULDN'T WANT YA PASSIN' OUT AT YER COMPUTER OR NOTHIN', RIGHT?
HEY, WILLIAMS, HAVE ONE OF YOUR CRONIES TURN THE HEAT DOWN IN HERE. I'M GETTIN' UNCOMFORTABLE...

MEANWHILE, DOWNSTAIRS IN THE OSBORN LOBBY...
AND ANOTHER THING! HOW DOES HE EVER EXPECT TO GROW UP WITH THAT HARPY LORDING OVER HIM THE WHOLE TIME?
SHE IS HIS MOTHER, LIZ.
I PREFER THE TERM "GENITOR." IT SOUNDS APPROPRIATELY LESS HUMAN.
AT THE MOMENT, FOGGY AND ROSALIND...... THEY'RE SORT OF A PACKAGE DEAL. FOR BETTER OR WORSE.
HOW ABOUT "FOR THE ABYSMAL"?
MAYBE, BUT WITH A GUY LIKE FOGGY, IT ONLY MAKES SENSE.
WHEN HE FORMS A BOND WITH SOMEONE, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, HE TREATS IT LIKE A PRIZED POSSESSION.
HE CHERISHES IT. HE HAS A BOND LIKE THAT WITH ROSALIND... MISGUIDED THOUGH IT MAY BE, IT EXISTS, AND HE'LL BE TRUE TO IT.
BUT, HE'S ALSO FORMED ONE WITH YOU TOO, LIZ. A STRONG ONE. EVEN A BLIND MAN CAN SEE THAT.
RUNNING AROUND WITH NIOMI BRINKE SURE IS A FUNNY WAY TO CHERISH ME, MATT.
SMASH
BREAKING GLASS A FEW FLOORS ABOVE! TOO FAINT FOR LIZ TO HEAR...
...SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE... RAXTON YELLING... SOME KIND OF TROUBLE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM!
Er... SOMETIMES FOGGY'S GOT A TOUCH OF DOOFUS IN HIM TOO -- COME ON, WE'D BETTER HURRY AND GET TO THE MEETING.
SLOW DOWN, MATT -- YOU'LL TRIP OVER SOMETHING! BESIDES...

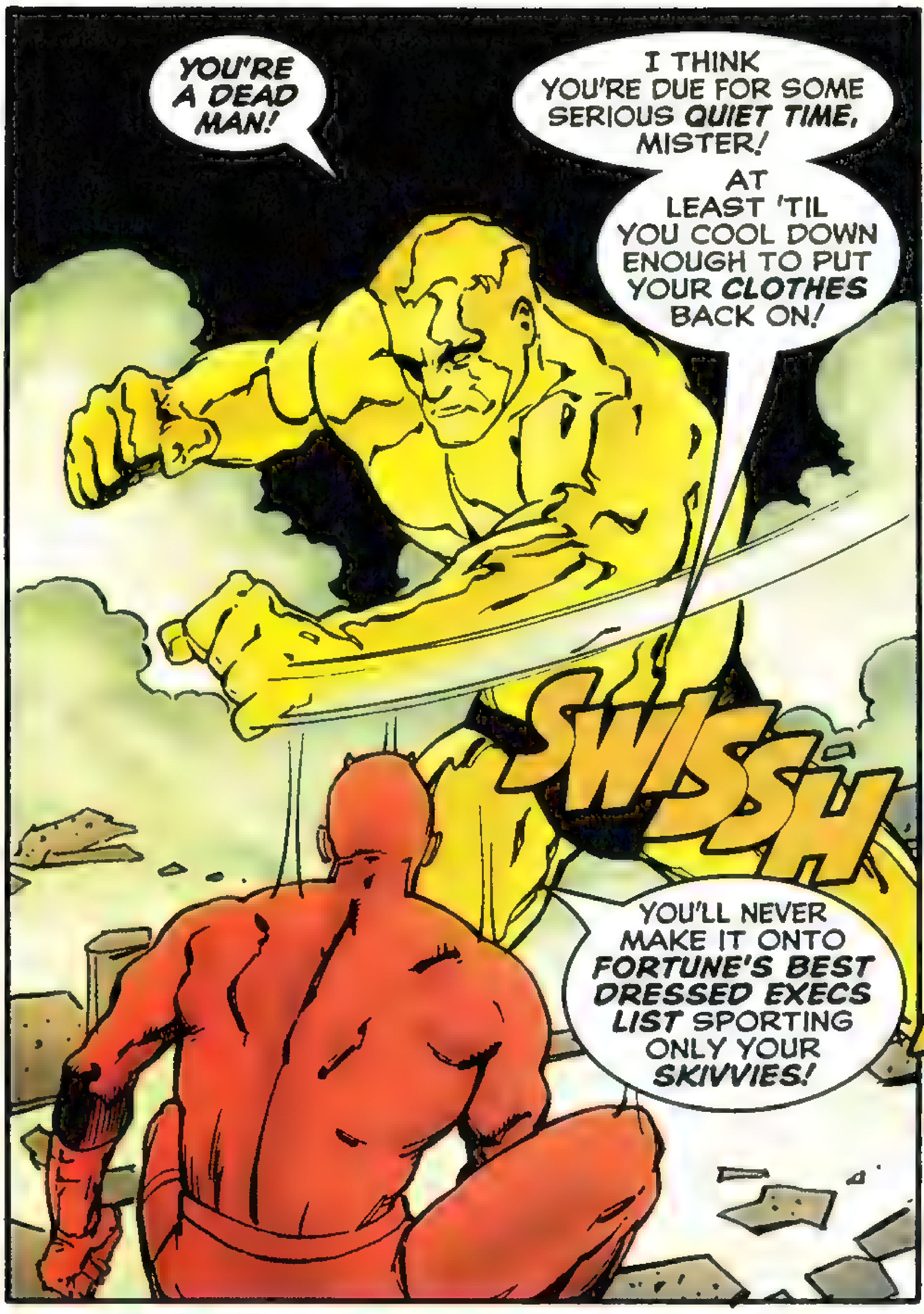
"...MARK WON'T LET THE PARTY START UNTIL WE GET THERE..."
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME, WILLIAMS?
SEE! THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT!
THIS IS A **BOARD ROOM**, NOT A **BAR ROOM!**
THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A... A BELLIGERENT ***THUG*** IN THIS ORGANIZATION!
YOU SUITS HAVE BEEN HAMMERIN' AT ME SINCE DAY ONE! YOU KEEP TRYING TA BREAK ME DOWN --
-- BUT NO ONE'S GONNA MUSCLE ME OUT OF OSBORN!
NO ONE!
UNHAND ME, RAXTON! SOMEONE CALL ***SECURITY!*** NOW!
MARK!
OUT OF MY WAY!
CALL SECURITY!
MARK! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HE'S CRAZY!
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG! EVERYONE IS SWEATING ***BULLETS***... ***ADRENALINE*** IS POURING OUT OF THESE GUYS LIKE WATER...
...AND IN THE AIR... ***IMPERCEPTIBLE*** TO A NORMAL NOSE... IS THAT... ***GAS?***
YES! POURING OUT FROM UNDERNEATH THE TABLE... IT'S ***FEAR GAS!***
BUT INSTEAD OF TURNING EVERYONE INTO COWARDS, IT'S HEIGHTENED THE SUSPICIONS THE BOARD MEMBERS HAVE ABOUT RAXTON...
...AND FANNED HIS ***PERSECUTION*** COMPLEX INTO A ***RAGE!***
I'VE GOT TO GET THAT TOXIN OUT OF HERE BEFORE RAXTON LOSES CONTROL...

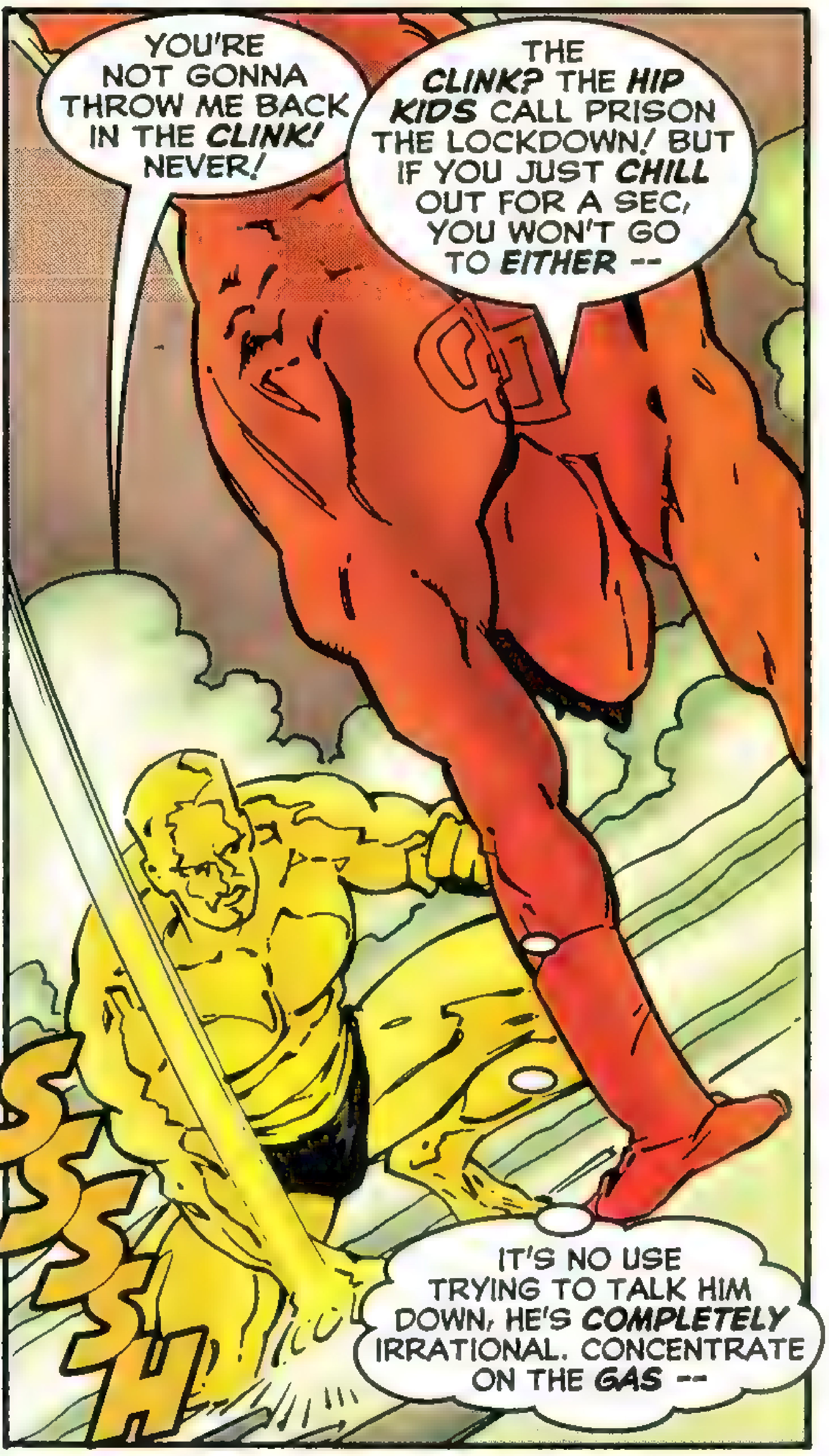
...BUT HOW, WITHOUT REVEALING --
BACK OFF, LIZ, BEFORE I FORGET WE'RE RELATED!
RAXTON, WHATEVER THIS IS ABOUT, I'M SURE WE CAN --
MARK, PLEASE, YOU'RE HEATING UP! IF YOU DON'T LET WILLIAMS GO --
I'M NEVER GONNA LET GO! YOU HEAR ME?!
I DESERVE THIS JOB, BUT THEY'VE BEEN SETTING ME UP FROM THE BEGINNING TO FAIL, AND FOR THAT...
...SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE!
ALL SECURITY PERSONNEL TO THE BOARD ROOM! THIS IS A LEVEL TEN CRISIS!
FULL RIOT PROTOCOL!
PERFECT... RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, Mr. RAXTON...
...A RAMPAGING EX-SUPER-VILLAIN MAKES FOR A SPECTACULAR DISTRACTION.
GO ON... RUN OFF AND PLAY SOLDIER... SLAY THE MOLTEN DRAGON...
BUT LEAVE THE DEVIL BE... BECAUSE HIS DESTINY LIES IN THE HANDS OF...
MR. FEAR!
GENTLEMEN... THE STORE IS OPEN...

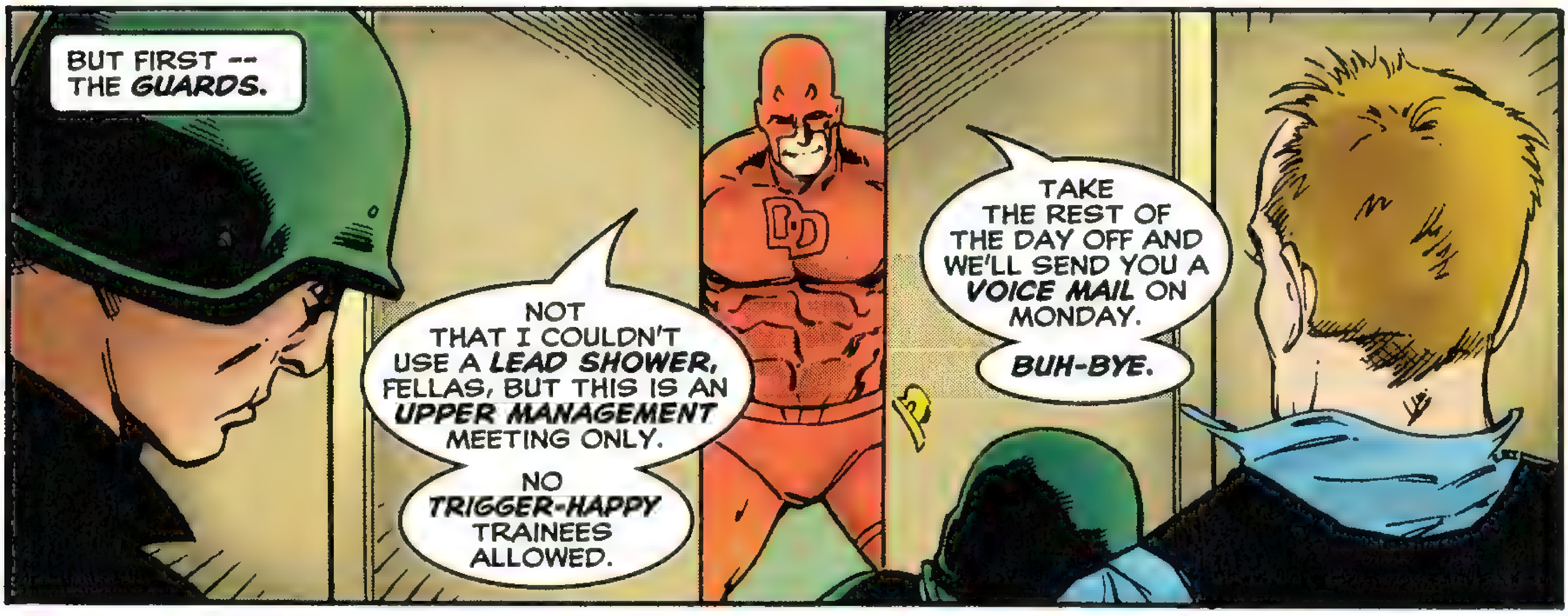
THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE... YOU'VE GOT TO HELP **MARK!**
HELP HIM? LADY, WE'RE GONNA **PERFORATE** HIM IF HE DOESN'T PUT THAT MAN DOWN!
SO MUCH FOR **ASKING QUESTIONS FIRST!** I CAN HEAR THE **TENDONS** IN THEIR FOREARMS **TIGHTENING...**
THOSE **SHOTS** AREN'T GOING TO DO **ACK** TO THE MOLTEN MAN, BUT UNLESS INVULNERABILITY IS A **FAMILY** TRAIT --
OKAY, PUNK! I'LL PUT HIM DOWN -- SO HE **NEVER** GETS UP!
LIZ, WHAT'S **HAPPENING?** WHO'S HERE -- **WOOPS!**
OOF! MATT! ARE YOU ALRIGHT --?
FIRE!
NO! YOU **LUNATICS! STOP IT!**
GOTTA LOVE THE **CLUMSY BLIND GUY** ROUTINE IN A PINCH... NOW TO GET LIZ TO **SAFETY** AND --
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A **BLIND MAN,** MATTHEW! GET IN THIS CLOSET AND KEEP YOUR HEAD **DOWN!**
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MARK'S STILL MY **BROTHER,** I CAN **TALK** TO HIM!
BUT --
SLAM
WELL, THAT WASN'T ESPECIALLY **P.C.** OF LIZ...
...BUT I'LL TAKE A QUIET MOMENT OF **PRIVACY** ANY WAY I CAN GET IT!
DD

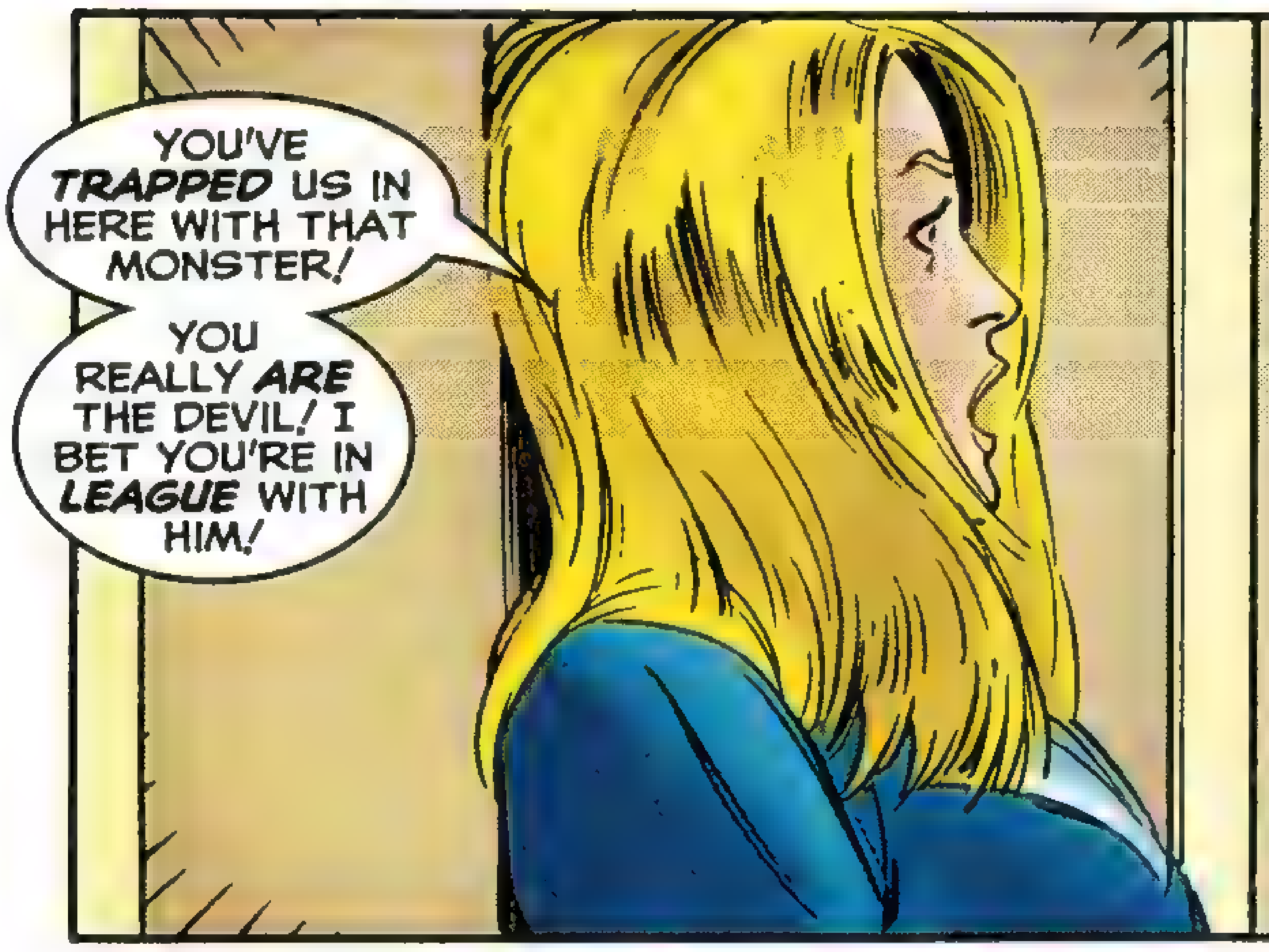
YOU'RE ATTACKING ME WITH MY OWN SECURITY TEAM?! AIN'T THAT THE MOST!
I **HANDPICKED** THE LOT OF YOU! BROUGHT YOU UP FROM **NOTHING** --
-- AND **THIS** IS HOW YOU **REPAY** ME?
RRRIPP
I DON'T THINK THAT THE GAS HAS HIT ME YET, BUT SINCE IT SEEMS TO BE A ***DERIVATIVE*** OF THE USUAL GOODS --
-- WON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL AFFECT ME UNTIL IT ***DOES.***
AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT TRYING TO SNEAK PAST A ***BLISTERING MANIAC*** TO GET HIS CASE OF ***POISON GAS*** WAS JUST GOING TO BE THE ***SAME OLD*** STUFF...
WHAMM
I'LL PULVERIZE THE LOT OF YOU!
OOH, THAT'S GONNA ***STING.*** BUT THE GUARDS ARE HEAVILY ***ARMORED.*** THEY'LL BE FINE UNTIL I GET IN POSITION.
OF COURSE, I'VE YET TO ASK MYSELF THE QUESTION --
*"SELF? WHERE THERE'S **FEAR GAS,** ISN'T THERE USUALLY A CERTAIN SKULL-FACED **GHOUL** LURKING NEARBY?"*
HEY -- WHAT'S THAT?

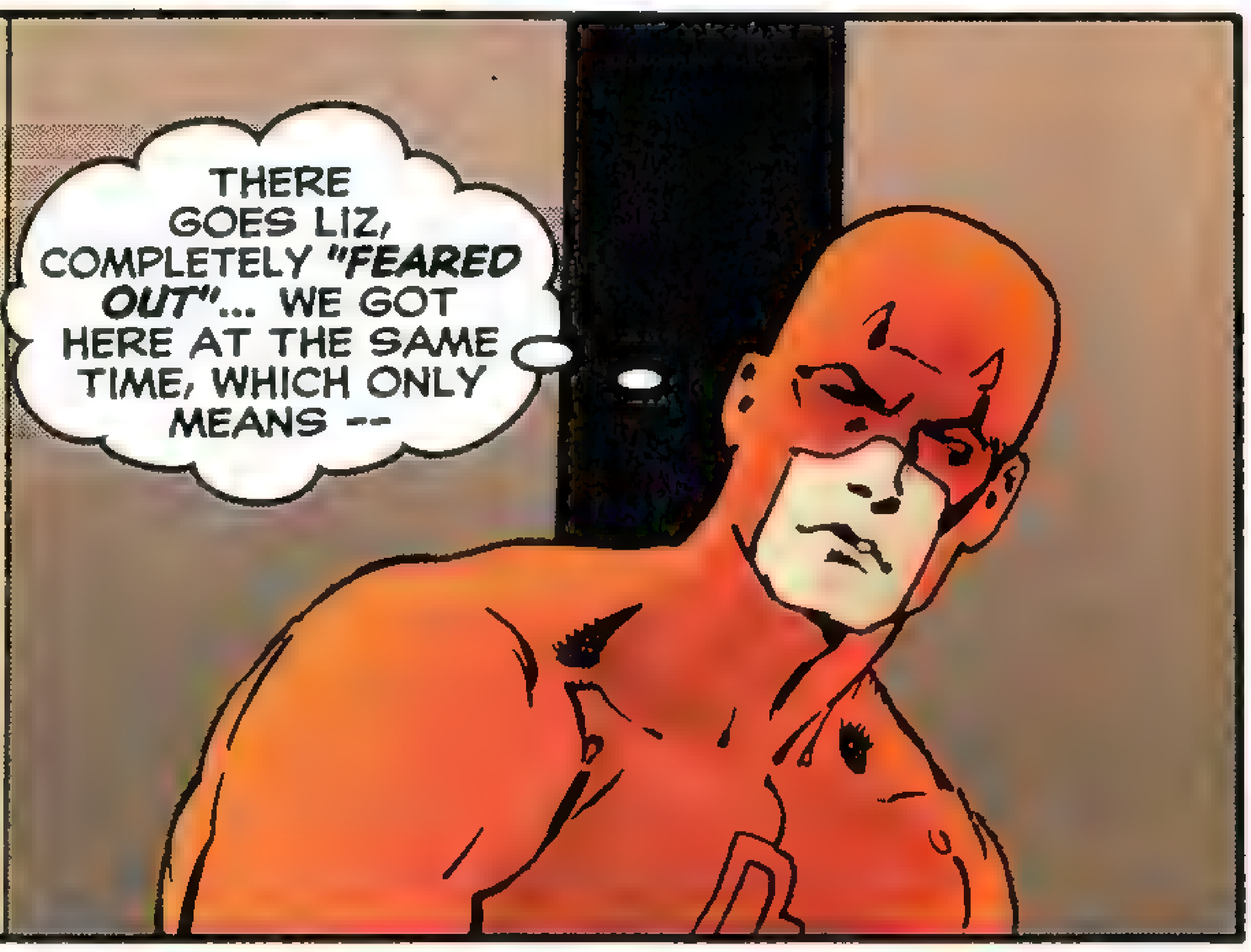
RADAR'S FUZZY THROUGH THE SHEETROCK, BUT IF I JUST CONCENTRATE I CAN MAKE OUT --
IT'S ***Mr. FEAR!*** HE'S GOT HIS MEN LOADING BARRELS INTO A TRUCK!
I'LL BET MY BILLY-CLUB THAT THEY'RE THE VERY SAME ***CHEMICALS INSOMNIA*** AND THE ***GRAY GARGOYLE*** TRIED TO STEAL LAST WEEK!
RAXTON'S RAMPAGE HAS JUST BEEN A ***DIVERSION*** WHILE FEAR ROBS THE PLACE ***BLIND!***
IF I STOP RAXTON, THEN ***FEAR*** WILL HAVE ENOUGH RAW ***CHEMICALS*** TO ***ENSLAVE*** A CITY! BUT IF I ***DON'T...***
Oh GOD... HE'S... HE'S REALLY GOING TO KILL ME...
NO, HE'LL NEVER HURT HIS SISTER... TALK TO HIM!
YOU WANNA BET, WILLIAMS? SHE'S JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOU! ***PRETENDIN'*** TO BELIEVE IN ME, JUST TO SET ME UP FOR A ***FALL!***
I'M GONNA MAKE THIS ***HURT... REAL*** BAD --
SKRRRIP
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU IT'S NOT NICE TO THREATEN YOUR STEP-SISTER WITH ***THIRD DEGREE BURNS?!***
DAREDEVIL!


YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
I THINK YOU'RE DUE FOR SOME SERIOUS QUIET TIME, MISTER!
AT LEAST 'TIL YOU COOL DOWN ENOUGH TO PUT YOUR CLOTHES BACK ON!
SWISSH
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT ONTO FORTUNE'S BEST DRESSED EXECS LIST SPORTING ONLY YOUR SKIVVIES!


YOU'RE NOT GONNA THROW ME BACK IN THE CLINK! NEVER!
THE CLINK? THE HIP KIDS CALL PRISON THE LOCKDOWN! BUT IF YOU JUST CHILL OUT FOR A SEC, YOU WON'T GO TO EITHER --
SSSSH
IT'S NO USE TRYING TO TALK HIM DOWN, HE'S COMPLETELY IRRATIONAL. CONCENTRATE ON THE GAS --


BUT FIRST -- THE GUARDS.
NOT THAT I COULDN'T USE A LEAD SHOWER, FELLAS, BUT THIS IS AN UPPER MANAGEMENT MEETING ONLY.
NO TRIGGER-HAPPY TRAINEES ALLOWED.
TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF AND WE'LL SEND YOU A VOICE MAIL ON MONDAY.
BUH-BYE.


YOU'VE TRAPPED US IN HERE WITH THAT MONSTER!
YOU REALLY ARE THE DEVIL! I BET YOU'RE IN LEAGUE WITH HIM!


THERE GOES LIZ, COMPLETELY "FEARED OUT"... WE GOT HERE AT THE SAME TIME, WHICH ONLY MEANS --

NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
LOOK OUT!
HSSSS
AAARRGH!!
GEE, NO *"THANKS A LOT, DD"?* WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED...
...MOLTEN METAL... RIPPED ACROSS MY ARM... THE PAIN! SO INTENSE!
I'M ON FIRE... NO, IT'S THE GAS EXACERBATING MY EMOTIONAL REACTIONS...
I -- RAXTON! YOU HAVE TO STOP! YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL --!
NO, I'M IN COMPLETE CONTROL, HORNHEAD! AND I'M TAKIN' WHAT'S MINE.
I'M TAKIN' BACK MY JOB... MY *LIFE*... MY *DIGNITY!*
NO MORE LIES AND INNUENDOS...
THE PAIN... JUST STAND *STILL*... OR HE'LL HURT ME AGAIN... WHAT'S HE DOING..? RADAR ALL *SCREWED* UP... IS HE MELTING THAT CHAIR?
YOU'LL ALL LEARN TA ***RESPECT*** ME... EVEN IF I HAVE ***T'BURN*** RESPECT INTA YA!
I DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO GO! I CAN'T THINK!

SO **STOP** THINKING AND **REACT.**
PUSH OFF, HEAD DOWN...
THE **PAIN** IS KILLING ME!
NO, **FEAR** IS KILLING ME...
...JUST LIKE IT'S **EATING** AT RAXTON.
THIS GAS HEIGHTENS OUR INNER DEMONS, OUR **WEAKNESSES.** IT GIVES THEM **POWER.**
REMOVE THE GAS... THE DEMONS **REMAIN...**
...BUT IN THE **LIGHT** WHERE WE CAN FACE THEM.
THE DEVIL HAS COME FOR ME... I DESERVE IT... DESERVE IT ALL... SO WEAK...
OF COURSE, THAT BEING **SAID...**
...THIS **ISN'T** GOING TO WORK... I JUST **KNOW** IT.
I'M **NOT FAST** ENOUGH.
NOT **STRONG** ENOUGH.
HE'S GOING TO WRAP HIS **SMOLDERING** HANDS AROUND THE BACK OF MY **THROAT** AND...

KTHOK
...HIS FINGERS ARE GOING TO MELT THROUGH MY FLESH...
...BOIL MY BLOOD...
...BLACKEN MY BONES...
FIRST KISS OF FRESH AIR IN MY LUNGS AND THE SPELL IS BROKEN.
TKSSHH
THOUGH I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND SURFING ON A CONFERENCE TABLE THROUGH A TENTH STORY WINDOW TO CLEAR THE COBWEBS TO EVERYONE.
OF COURSE, IT WAS MY PLAN ALL ALONG.
NOW, TO FIRE MY BILLY CLUB AND MAKE A SMART-ALECKY QUIP --
Oh... WHOOPS.
POP ALWAYS WARNED ME NOT TO BET WHAT I COULDN'T AFFORD TO LOSE...
...SHOOT.

FORGIVE ME FOR I HAVE SINNED... PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
WOOOSH
I -- Oh, GOD. MARK?
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? ONE MINUTE THIS WAS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE AN' THEN...
I... I DON'T DO THIS ANYMORE... I --
-- I CHANGED.
MARK, WHAT I SAID... I'M SORRY --
DAREDEVIL!
HEY! WELCOME BACK TO THE LAND OF THE LUCID, MARK!
I HAD TO CRASH THE MEETING EARLIER, 'CAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LET ME IN WITHOUT A TIE ON...
BUT THINGS SEEM TO HAVE GONE CASUAL. ANY CHANCE YOU'D CONSIDER INVITING ME BACK IN?
GET UP HERE, YOU...
...AND THANKS, DD... THANKS.
ANYTHING FOR A STAND-UP GUY, RAXTON.

I'M GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT YOU NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY, RAXTON! YOU'RE GOING TO *PAY* FOR THIS!
HOLD ON A SEC, MISTER BOSS-TYPE MAN...
MARK ISN'T TO BLAME! CHECK OUT THE CHEMICAL TRACES IN THIS AND YOU'LL SEE...
-- WE WERE *ALL* AFFECTED BY THE SAME GAS, COURTESY OF ONE *Mr. FEAR!* IT WAS A SET-UP...
...IN FACT, IF YOU CHECK YOUR INVENTORY, YOU'LL FIND IT A COUPLE OF BARRELS SHORT.
Oh MY GOSH, *MATT!* HE'S STILL IN THE *CLOSET!*
Uh, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE *BARRISTER,* Ms. OSBORN.
I HIGH TAILED Mr. MURDOCK TO SAFETY WHILE I WAS UP IN THE *RAFTERS.*
ALTHOUGH IN MY RUSH, I THINK I LEFT HIS *SHOES* IN THE CLOSET! OF ALL THE *STUPID* --!
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON?
I DIDN'T! MY PAL *FOGGY NELSON* GAVE ME A CALL, THINKING I MIGHT WANT TO SEE RAXTON GET HIS *APOLOGY.*
GOOD THING HE'S SUCH A *THOUGHTFUL GUY.*
GET THE #$%$&@! DOWN!
EVERYBODY FREEZE!
NO ONE MOVE!
BEAUTIFUL ENTRANCE, BOYS. *T.J. HOOKER* WOULD BE *PROUD.*
HOLD YOUR FIRE! GET DOWN TO THE CHEMICAL PLANT! THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A *ROBBERY!*
BUT ONE OF YOU STAY BEHIND TO PUT *THAT* MAN INTO CUSTODY!

GIVE IT A REST, WILLIAMS! VINNIE WAS ALL MIXED UP BY FEAR'S GAS TOO!
RIGHT, VIN?
VINNIE? TELL HIM...
I... I BROUGHT THE CASE IN... VOLUNTARILY. I WAS WORKING FOR FEAR...
DID HE THREATEN YOU, VIN? THAT SON OF --
NO... IT WAS... IT WAS FOR MONEY. I... I'M SORRY, MR. RAXTON.
NO... NOT YOU, VINNIE... SAY IT AIN'T SO...
HIS HEART JUST DID THE MAMBO! HE'S LYING! WHY WOULD HE PROTECT FEAR?
UNLESS HE'S BEING COERCED. BUT WHY?
"WHAT WOULD FEAR WANT WITH A KID LIKE VINNIE?"
AT LAST... THE PIECES FALL INTO PLACE.
I HAVE PLUNDERED OSBORN...
...THE BOY HAS PLAYED THE PAWN TO PERFECTION...
...ALL THAT REMAINS...
...IS TO CLOSE THE NOOSE...
...AROUND THE DEVIL'S NECK...
...AND SQUEEZE!
NEXT–
FLASHBACK!

FLASHBACK
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
HERE COMES...
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
MINUS 1 JULY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
BEFORE THERE WAS DAREDEVIL --
-- THERE WAS MATT MURDOCK!
ALSO STARRING: Fearless FOGGY NELSON!
DEVOTED SON -- UPSTANDING CITIZEN -- COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT...
...SO WHY IS HE TAKING ON A FEW THUGS?
Gene Colan
Bud LaRosa

"AND I'M SURE... THAT I'VE GONE QUITE MAD."
FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS, TRUE BELIEVERS! YOU'RE IN FOR A WILD RIDE!
I'M **STAN LEE,** YOUR DRIVER FOR TODAY, PREEMPTING OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED STORYLINE TO BRING YOU A SUPER SPECIAL SAGA FROM OUR MIGHTY MARVEL VAULT!
97662
BUS TICKET 4399
THIS TICKET ENTITLES YOU TO A BULLET TRAIN RIDE -- INTO THE PERILOUS **PAST!**
I'M TAKING YOU BACK -- WAY BACK IN TIME -- BEFORE A CERTAIN SWASHBUCKLING SUPER HERO EVER SWUNG THROUGH THE URBAN **JUNGLE** OF NEW YORK...
...BEFORE THERE WAS EVEN A GLINT OF THE CRIMSON CRUSADER IN THE SIGHTLESS EYES OF **MATT MURDOCK!**
SO, FACE FRONT, O FEARLESS ONE, AS OUR WILD RIDE BEGINS!

AUTUMN IN NEW YORK.
THE LONG DAYS OF SUMMER BEGIN TO PEEL AWAY WITH THE LEAVES...
...AND THE WORLD **METAMORPHOSES** UNDER A BLANKET OF BRILLIANT **CRIMSON** AND BURNT **UMBER**.
NOWHERE IS THIS TRANSFORMATION MORE READILY APPARENT...
...THAN IN THE **FACES** OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ABOUT TO EMBARK ON THE FIRST **BIG ADVENTURE** OF THEIR LIVES...
...THE TREK TO **COLLEGE**.
YALE OR BUST
FOR SOME, IT IS A **FRESH START**. A LONG AWAITED CHANGE TO SHED **OUTGROWN** SKIN AND DISCOVER WHAT LIES **BENEATH**...
...FOR OTHERS, A TIME TO **SEVER** THE **APRON STRINGS**...
...OR AT LEAST TO **STRETCH** THEM A FEW HUNDRED MILES.
IT IS A TIME OF UNBRIDLED **EXCITEMENT**, OLD ADVICE, AND NEW **BEGINNINGS**, BUT ABOVE ALL...

A TIME TO SAY FAREWELL
Stan Lee PRESENTS: A VERY SPECIAL SLICE OF THE CRIMSON CRUSADER'S LIFE, VERY PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JOE KELLY WRITER
GENE (THE DEAN) COLAN PENCILER
MATT RYAN INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
AMERICAN COLOR SEPS
APPLIED COMPUTER SCIENCE... MOLECULAR BIOLOGY... ADVANCED GENETIC THEORY... JEEZ LOUISE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE EVER GONNA CHOOSE A MAJOR, MATT. IT ALL SOUNDS GOOD.
YEAH, ESPECIALLY THE WAY YOU READ THEM. YOU'VE GONE THROUGH THAT BOOKLET AT LEAST TEN TIMES, DAD...
...ANY MORE AND I THINK THEY'LL HAVE TO AWARD YOU AN HONORARY DEGREE. LET'S GIVE IT A REST, HUH?
BATTLIN' MURDOCK
AND SO BEGINS THE STARTLING TALE OF AN OVER-THE-HILL PRIZEFIGHTER AND HIS BLIND, COLLEGE-BOUND SON...
AS BOTH MEN UNSUSPECTINGLY FACE THE UNTHINKABLE TOGETHER...
WHILE WE BEAR WITNESS TO THE FATEFUL EVENTS!

WHAT'SA MATTER, MATT, BUS-SORES GETTIN' TO YA? I'D HAVE PREFERRED THE RAILS FOR THIS TRIP MYSELF --
BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THAT COSTS --
DAD, WE COULD WALK TO STATE COLLEGE FOR ALL I CARE...
JUST SO LONG AS WE DON'T TALK ABOUT IT THE WHOLE WAY THERE.
OKAY OKAY, I WON'T REGALE YA WITH TALES FROM THE MEAL PLAN PAMPHLET... FOR NOW AT LEAST.
Y'KNOW, DAD, I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING WITH ME... BUT YOU COULD'VE STAYED HOME... IF YOU WANTED TO.
RIGHT, AN' FOR MY LAST FIGHT, I COULDA JUST CALLED IN MY RIGHT HOOKS OVER THE PHONE... ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
FIRST MURDOCK EVER TO GO TO COLLEGE, AND YOU THINK I'M JUST GONNA WAVE FROM THE BUS STOP?
BESIDES, WHO'S GONNA LUG ALL OF THIS STUFF YOU GOT CRAMMED IN THERE --
HEY, DID YOU REMEMBER TO PACK YOUR THERMALS?
YES, DAD... AND MY SNOW BOOTS...
...AND A COLLAPSIBLE IGLOO AND A SNOWPLOW...
DID I MENTION THE ST. BERNARD WITH THE LITTLE BARREL OF BRANDY?
HEY! DON'T JOKE ABOUT THE BOOZIN' MATT! I KNOW IT'S CONSIDERED A PART OF "COLLEGE LIFE" NOWADAYS --
WHAT WITH THE PARTIES AND FRATERNAL ORDERS AND SUCH --
-- BUT IT'S THE DEVIL'S DRINK, Y'HEAR?
I KNOW DAD... I KNOW... JUST PULLING YOUR LEG... BUT HEY, WHILE YOU'RE UP ON YOUR SOAP BOX...

...WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME THAT SPEECH ABOUT THE **BIRDS AND THE BEES** INSTEAD...
THAT ONE WAS PRETTY **GOOD.**
GREAT. **BARELY** OUT OF THE CITY AN' YER ALREADY HALFWAY T'BEIN' A **DRUNK** AN'A **PERVERT...**
...YOU TRYIN' T'GIVE THE OLD MAN A **CORONARY?**
EXPRESS
NAH, IF I DID, WHO'D CARRY MY **STUFF?**
X2284
Oh, I GOT IT! THE HIRED **HELP,** HUH? WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, **Mr.** MURDOCK.
I PROMISE THAT I'LL KEEP IT **ZIPPED** IN FRONT OF ALL YER NEW **INTELLECTUAL** FRIENDS...
DAD'S TRYING TO MAKE JOKES, BUT HE'S REALLY **NERVOUS...**
I CAN SMELL A **TWINGE** OF IT THROUGH HIS AFTERSHAVE, AND HIS **HEARTBEAT** IS JUST A LITTLE FAST...
WOULDN'T WANT TO **EMBARRASS** THE COLLEGE MAN ON HIS FIRST DAY, RIGHT, **CHAMP?**
DAD...
WHOOPS... HERE, LET ME **COMB** THAT DOWN FOR YOU, MATTY...
LET'S GO OVER THAT PART ABOUT NOT **EMBARRASSING** ME AGAIN...

HEADS UP, FOLKS. STATE COLLEGE, DEAD AHEAD!
THERE IT IS! SO *THAT'S* COLLEGE...
BATTLIN MURDOCK
WOW.
NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY...
IT'D BE JUST *PERFECT* IF YOUR *MOTHER* WAS ALIVE TO SEE THIS...
WHERE'S THE *IVY?* I ALWAYS PICTURE INSTITUTES OF HIGHER LEARNIN' WITH *IVY.*
TRUST ME, DAD, WHAT STATE LACKS IN *DECORATION* IT MAKES UP FOR IN *FACULTY* AND *REP*...
BESIDES, THAT IVY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WOULD *JACK* UP THE BILL ABOUT *TWENTY LARGE!*
Hmmm, I WONDER HOW MANY *CHUMPS* I'D NEED TO *K.O.* TO SCORE YOU SOME *IVY*...
MAN, I WISH YOU COULD *SEE* THE JOINT, MATT... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSIN'.
I'M SURE IT'S COOL, POP.
ACTUALLY, I CAN GET A PRETTY GOOD PICTURE OF THE GROUNDS BY THIS STRANGE *RADAR SENSE* I'VE DEVELOPED SINCE THE *ACCIDENT*...
...ALTHOUGH WITH *SO MANY* PEOPLE AROUND IT'S TOUGH TO GET A *FIX* ON THINGS. I ACTUALLY NEED MY *CANE* SO I DON'T --
OOF!
MATT!
STAT
ONE SIDE, *FROSH!* *BMOC* COMIN' THROUGH!
Oh, YEAH, WELCOME TO FREAKIN' STATE.

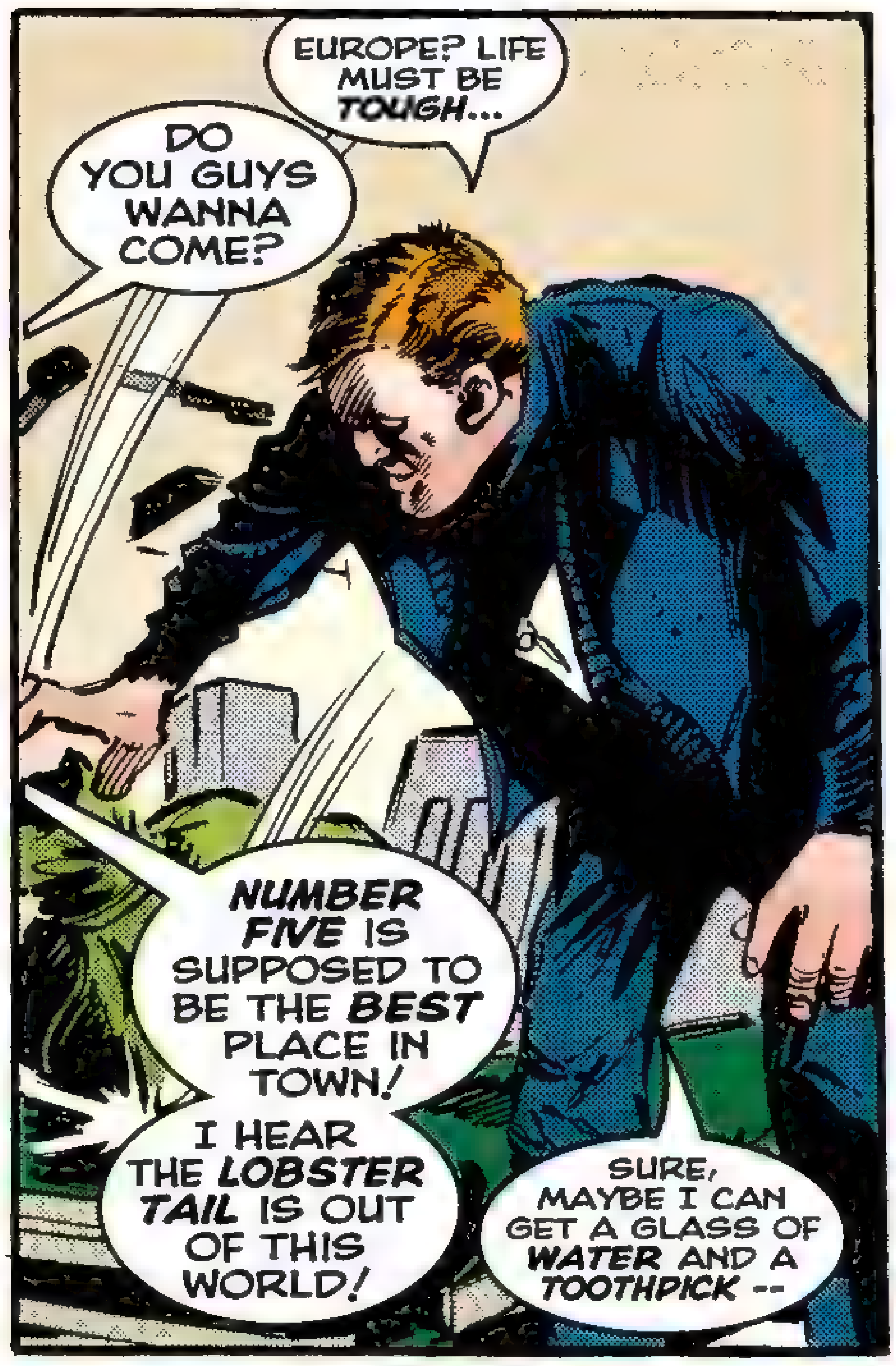
HEY! WATCH WHERE YER SWINGIN' YER BIG FAT HEAD!
COME BACK HERE AND I'LL --!
DAD! HEY, I'M ALRIGHT... SEE? NOTHING'S BROKEN, NO BLOOD...
YEAH...YEAH... NO SCARS. MATT, THIS IS SUCH A BIG PLACE... ARE YOU SURE...
NEW YORK'S NOT EXACTLY A ONE HORSE TOWN EITHER, DAD. I CAN HANDLE --
I KNOW, BUT... AT LEAST IN HELL'S KITCHEN THE BUMS GOT SOME CLASS!
LOOK, I CAN CATCH A LATER BUS BACK. HOW 'BOUT I HANG OUT WITH YOU, HELP YOU GET THE LAY OF THE LAND?
WELL I GUESS... IF YOU REALLY WANT TO.
YEAH, I DO. COME ON, SON, WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE. WATCH OUT FOR THE STEPS --
I GOT IT, DAD... LOOK, NO HANDS AND EVERYTHING...
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE ESTEEMED DEAN OF STATE COLLEGE...
...ARTHUR DUFOUR.
THANK YOU, BEATRICE.
WHEN I LOOK AT THIS FRESHMAN CLASS... I SEE THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST NEW YORK HAS TO OFFER...

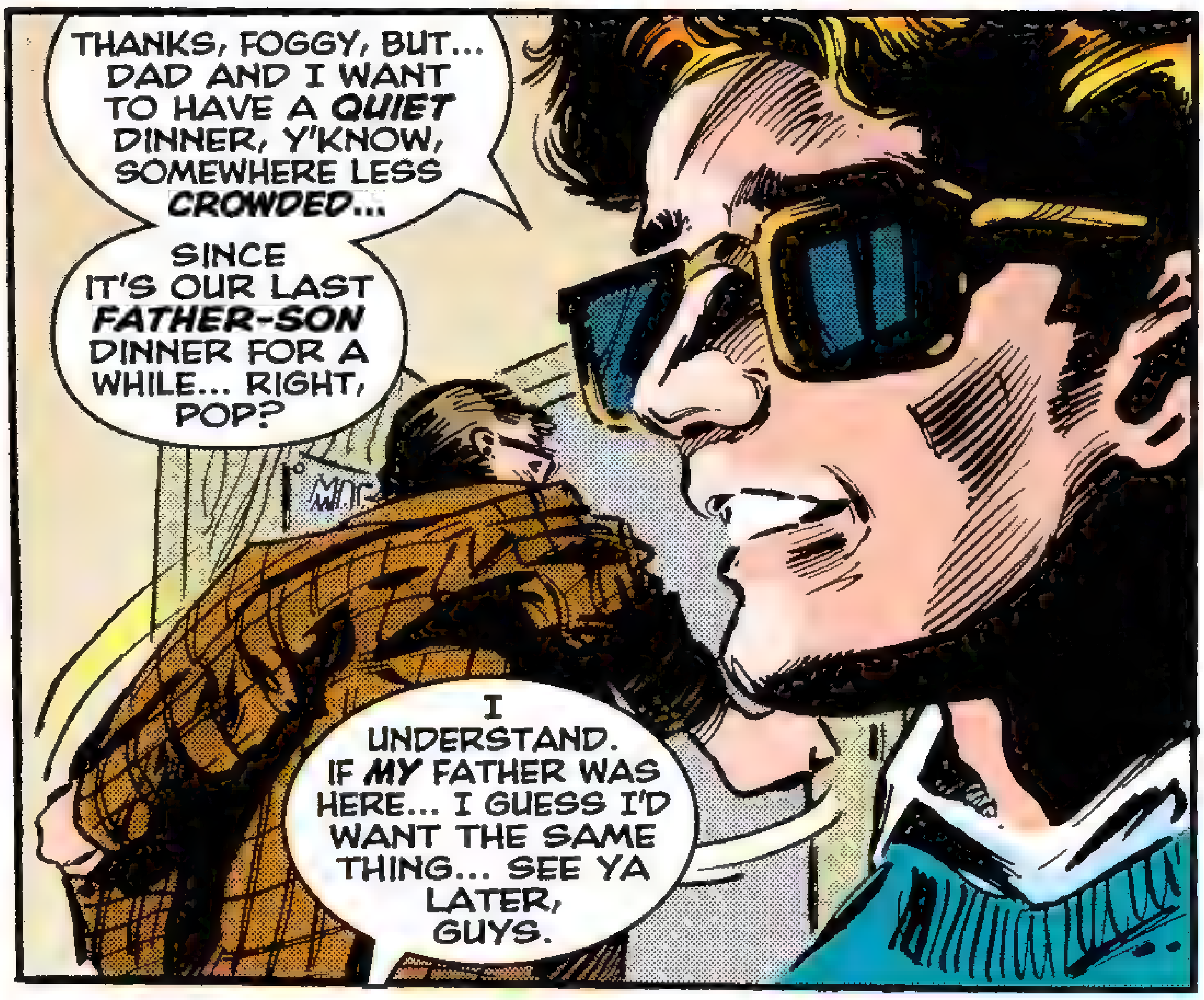
YOU GETTIN' ALL THIS, MATT? THAT'S DUFOUR SPELLED WITH A "U"... THESE ARE NAMES YOU GOTTA REMEMBER.
HE'S SO WOUND UP... I NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO BE SO WORRIED ABOUT SENDING ME OFF TO SCHOOL...
I SEE DETERMINATION. DRIVE --
ACTUALLY... HEH HEH...
I SEE SOMEONE WHO'S IN THE WRONG BUILDING.
I'M SORRY, SIR, YOU AND YOUR SON SHOULD BE AT THE ORIENTATION FOR SPECIAL STUDENTS.
WHO, US? WHY?
THEY'LL HAVE INFORMATION THERE REGARDING YOUR SON'S NEEDS AS A HANDICAPPED STUDENT.
HANDICAPPED... BUT...
COME ON, DAD. IT'S NO BIG DEAL --
NO. STAY.
THE ONLY THING MY SON NEEDS, MR. DEAN, SIR... IS TO BE TREATED LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE.
MATT'S WORKED HIS BUTT OFF TO GET HERE, PROVIN' HE HAS NO SPECIAL NEEDS.
NOW THAT HE'S HERE, HE'S GOING TO WORK EVEN HARDER TO BE NUMBER ONE IN THE CLASS.
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE FUTURE VALEDICTORIAN SHOULDN'T MISS YOUR FINE SPEECH... SIR.
VALEDICTORIAN? REALLY...
VERY WELL... CERTAINLY. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE. WHERE WAS -- OH, YES...

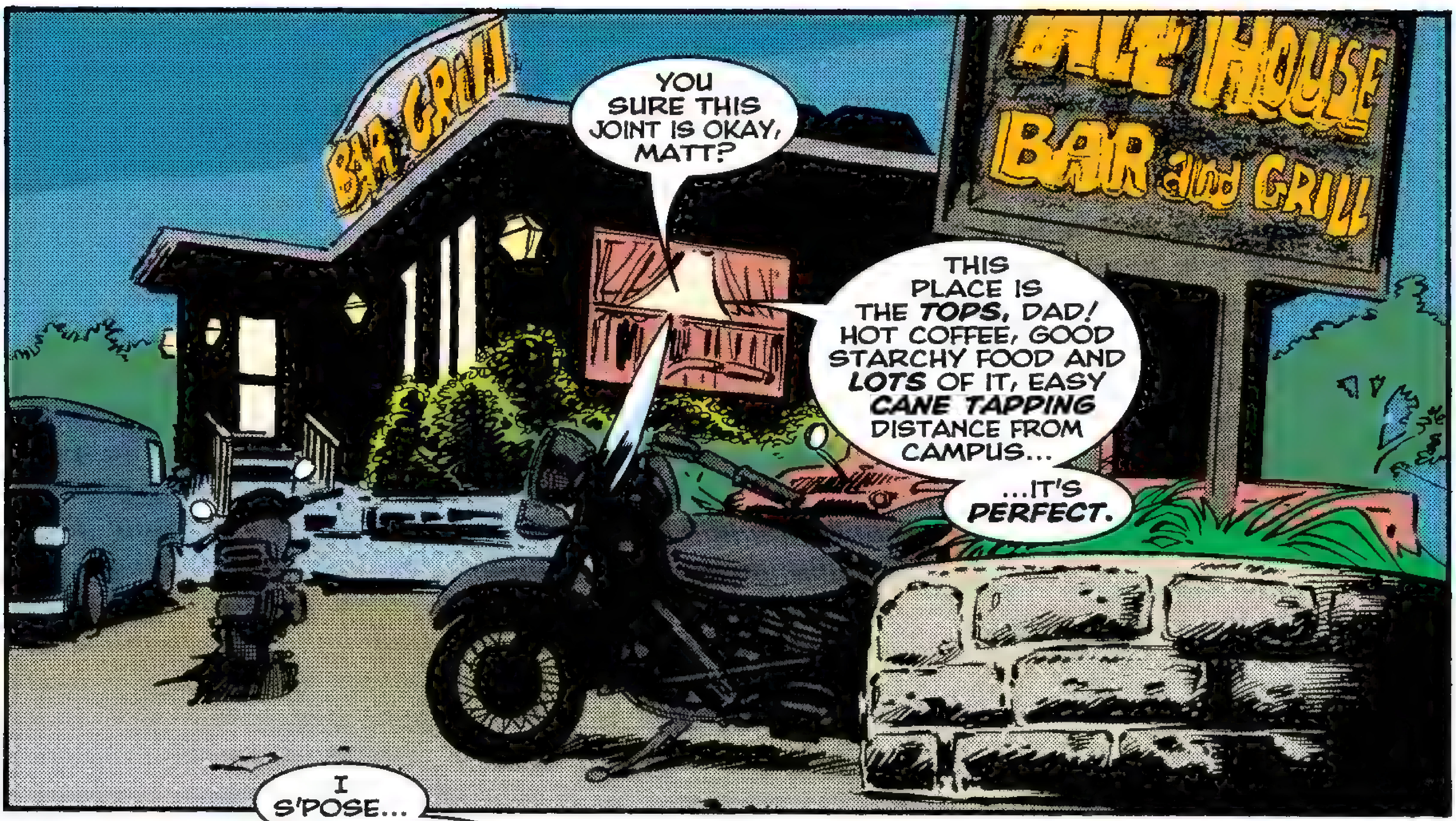
I SEE, UH... DETERMINATION... DRIVE...
"...DEDICATION."
NICE GUY, THAT DUFOUR... A LITTLE THICK, BUT ALRIGHT.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...
SO... THE DORM IS OVER HERE...LOTS OF GRASS, SO BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU STEP...
WALKING ON GRASS? HOWEVER WILL I MANAGE?
UH... HEH HEH... RIGHT. YOU UPSET ABOUT SOMETHIN', CHAMP?
UPSET? ME? WHY? JUST BECAUSE MY FATHER ALMOST STARTED A FISTFIGHT IN FRONT OF MY ENTIRE CLASS?
JUST BECAUSE YOU DECLARED TO THE DEAN THAT I WAS GOING TO BE VALEDICTORIAN BEFORE I'VE EVER TAKEN A TEST?
NOPE. EVERYTHING'S JUST PEACHY.
HEY, MATT, I WAS JUST LOOKIN' OUT FOR YOU --
SURE, DAD...
AND MAYBE ON MONDAY YOU CAN GO TO CLASSES FOR ME, TOO...

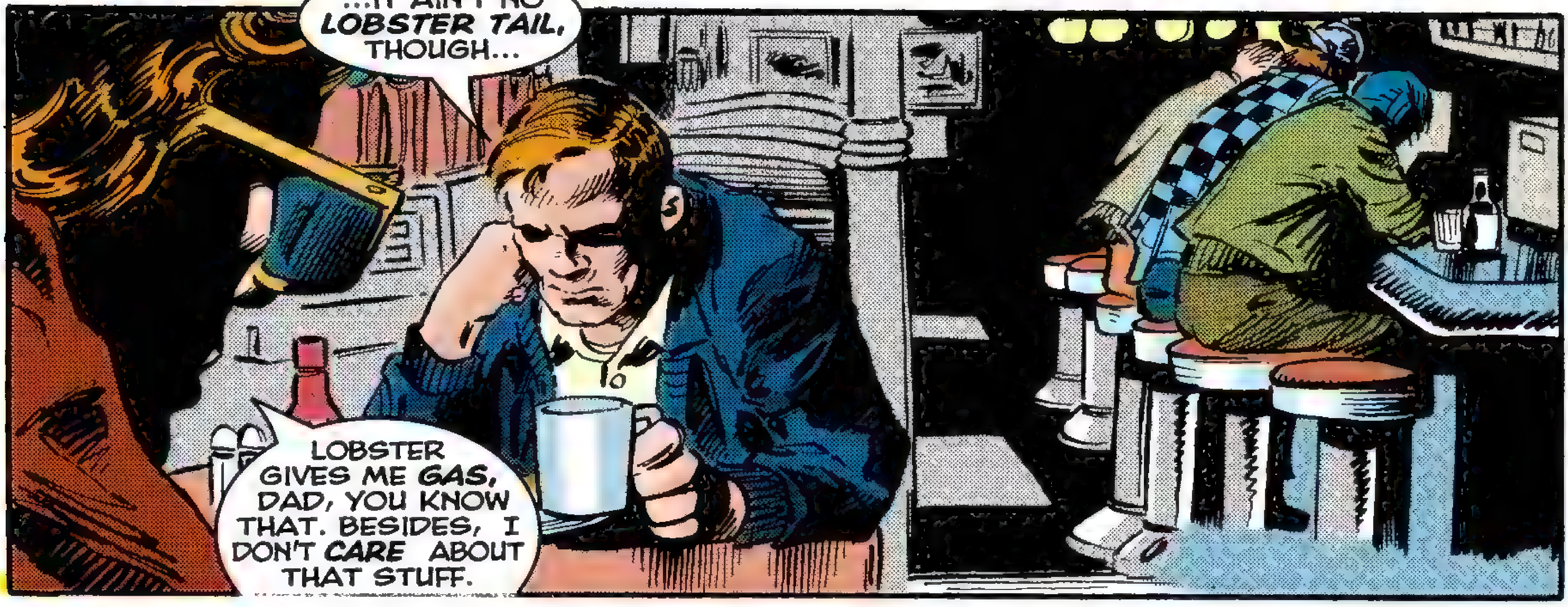
TV'S, MICROWAVES, STEREOS... WITH ALL THAT **STUFF,** WHERE THEY GONNA FIT THE **BOOKS?**
GOOD THING WE **MURDOCKS** TRAVEL **LIGHT,** EH, MATT?
YEAH, DAD. IT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR ME TO **FLEE** THE **STATE** AFTER TODAY...
...NOW DO ME FAVOR AND TRY **NOT** TO MAKE MY **ROOMMATE** HATE ME, OKAY?
MATT MURDOCK FRANKLIN NELSON
GIMME A BREAK, MATT. I -- **HEY?**
WHOA! EITHER MY **HYPER-SENSES** ARE ON THE FRITZ --
-- OR I JUST WALKED INTO A **DEPARTMENT STORE** INSTEAD OF A **DORM ROOM!**
STATE
COLLEGE
CHIPS
≡UNGHH≡ OVER MORE, **FITZY...** ≡WHUFF≡ MAN, I HOPE MY ROOMMATE **APPRECIATES** THIS THING.
I'M SURE HE **WILL,** SIR... NOW, YOUR FATHER **WILL** BE PICKING UP MY **MEDICAL** BILLS THIS MONTH, NO?
WOULD YOU GET A LOAD OF THE **BIG FELLA?**
≡**AHEM**≡
HEY! YOU MUST BE THE **MAN!**
FRANKLIN! DON'T LET GO! **URK!**
WELCOME TO THE NEW **HOMESTEAD!** WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE **SET-UP? CRAZY,** HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
THE WIDE SCREEN **TV!** THE MINI-STONE **EVERYTHING!**
WHAT ARE YOU, **BLI--?**

OH GOD, HE *IS*... OH GOD, WHERE'S MY *INHALER*...
THAT'S *ONE* WAY TO GET OVER A TOUCHY SUBJECT... *FRANKLIN*, IS IT? I'M *MATT MURDOCK*.
FOGGY... CALL ME FOGGY...
WHY?
'CAUSE SOMETIMES I'M JUST A LITTLE *DIM*... SORT OF LIKE NOW...
PLEASE DON'T *KILL* ME, SIR.
GRRR --
THAT'S OKAY, FOGGY, I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO MISS A *VISUAL CLUE* OR TWO MYSELF.
IF IT HELPS YOU ANY, MY HAND IS *STILL* EXTENDED, APPROXIMATELY TWO FEET IN FRONT OF YOU, PALM UP...
...WAITING TO BE *SHAKEN* BY MY NEW ROOMIE.
OKAY... BREATHING GOING BACK TO NORMAL... *COOL*.
GOOD TO MEET YOU, MATT.
SAME HERE. THIS IS MY FATHER, JACK MURDOCK.
HELLO, SIR. NO ONE TOLD ME... ABOUT YOU, I MEAN. CAN I *GET* YOU ANYTHING? DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL *CONCERNS?*
DO YOU *SNORE?*
NOPE. SLEEP LIKE A ROCK.
STATE
SOUNDS LIKE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP THEN --
EXCUSE, ME SIR... OUR DINNER APPOINTMENT...
THAT'S *FITZROY*, MY UH... CHAUFFEUR. MY FOLKS ARE IN *EUROPE* SO HE'S HELPING ME MOVE IN...
Chips


EUROPE? LIFE MUST BE *TOUGH*...
DO YOU GUYS WANNA COME?
NUMBER FIVE IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ***BEST*** PLACE IN TOWN!
I HEAR THE ***LOBSTER TAIL*** IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!
SURE, MAYBE I CAN GET A GLASS OF ***WATER*** AND A ***TOOTHPICK*** --


THANKS, FOGGY, BUT... DAD AND I WANT TO HAVE A ***QUIET*** DINNER, Y'KNOW, SOMEWHERE LESS ***CROWDED***...
SINCE IT'S OUR LAST ***FATHER-SON*** DINNER FOR A WHILE... RIGHT, POP?
I UNDERSTAND. IF ***MY*** FATHER WAS HERE... I GUESS I'D WANT THE SAME THING... SEE YA LATER, GUYS.


BAR GRILL
ALE HOUSE BAR and GRILL
YOU SURE THIS JOINT IS OKAY, MATT?
THIS PLACE IS THE ***TOPS***, DAD! HOT COFFEE, GOOD STARCHY FOOD AND ***LOTS*** OF IT, EASY ***CANE TAPPING*** DISTANCE FROM CAMPUS...
...IT'S ***PERFECT***.


I S'POSE...
...IT AIN'T NO ***LOBSTER TAIL***, THOUGH...
LOBSTER GIVES ME ***GAS***, DAD, YOU KNOW THAT. BESIDES, I DON'T ***CARE*** ABOUT THAT STUFF.

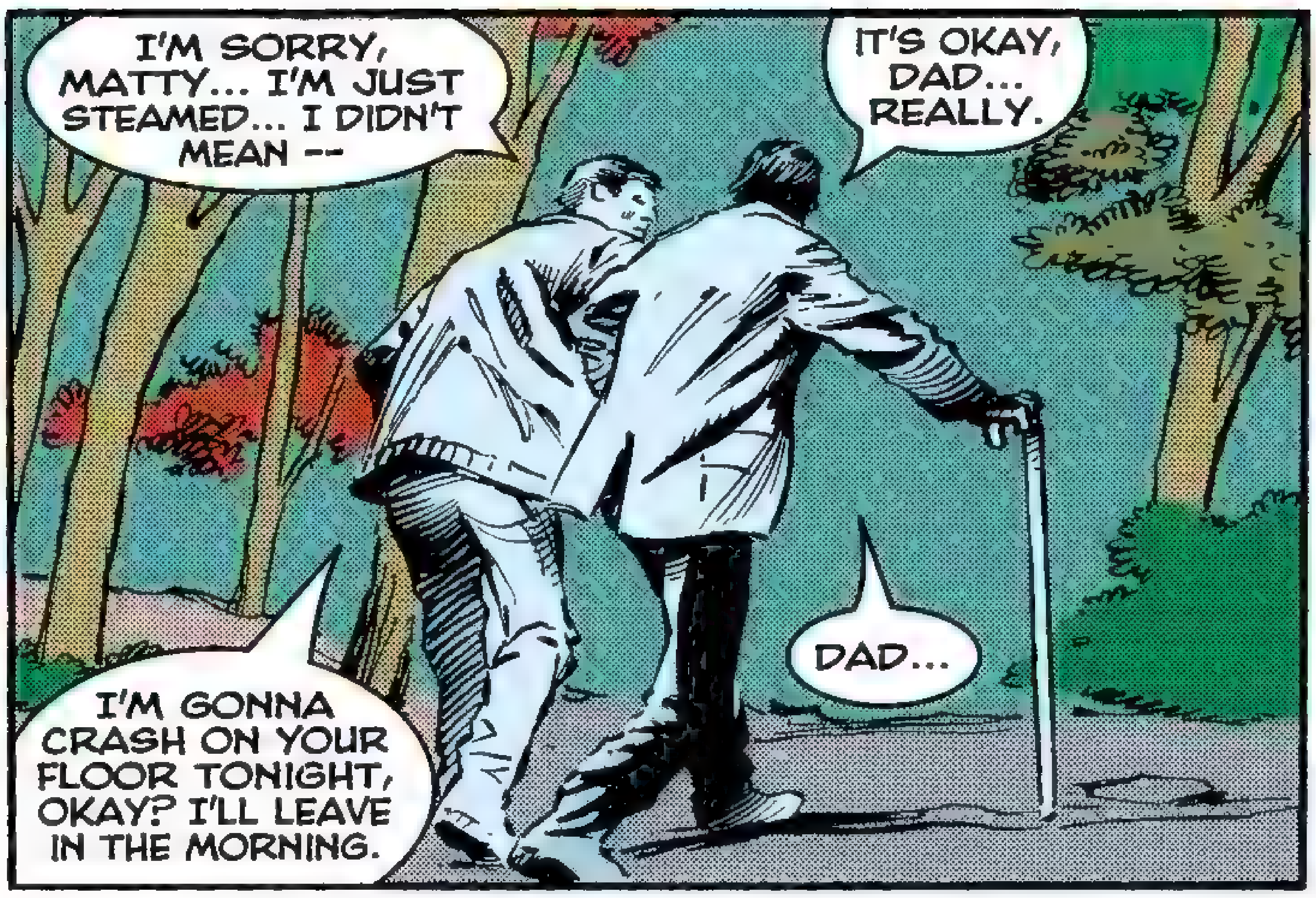
MATT? I GOTTA ASK YOU SOMETHIN' AN' BE **HONEST**...
DO YOU THINK... DO YOU THINK THAT YOUR **MOTHER** WOULD BE PROUD OF HOW I **RAISED** YOU?
I'M NOT ASKIN' WOULD SHE BE PROUD OF YOU. YOU WERE THE APPLE OF HER EYE HANDS **DOWN**... BUT **ME**... I MEAN... DID **I** DO A **GOOD JOB?**
OF **COURSE** YOU DID, POP. I MEAN, SURE, WE'VE HAD IT **TOUGH**...
BUT AS A KID, I NEVER **KNEW** IT. THERE WAS ALWAYS **FOOD** ON THE TABLE...
...A PRESENT UNDER THE TREE AT CHRISTMAS... **LAUGHTER** IN THE HOUSE.
AND MOST OF ALL I ALWAYS FELT SAFE... SECURE. YOU'VE BEEN GREAT, DAD. THE BEST.
SAFE. I GUESS. 'COURSE, I DIDN'T KEEP YOU SAFE FROM...
Y'KNOW... THE **ACCIDENT**.
DAD, IT'S CALLED AN **ACCIDENT** FOR A REASON --
I **TRIED** TO RAISE YOU THE WAY I KNEW YOUR **MOTHER** WANTED. USE YOUR **HEAD**, NOT YOUR **FISTS**...
...HIT THE **BOOKS**, NOT A **PUNCHING BAG**...
BUT WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, WHEN YOU **REALLY** NEEDED ME TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU, I DROPPED THE BALL... COULDN'T PROTECT YOU.

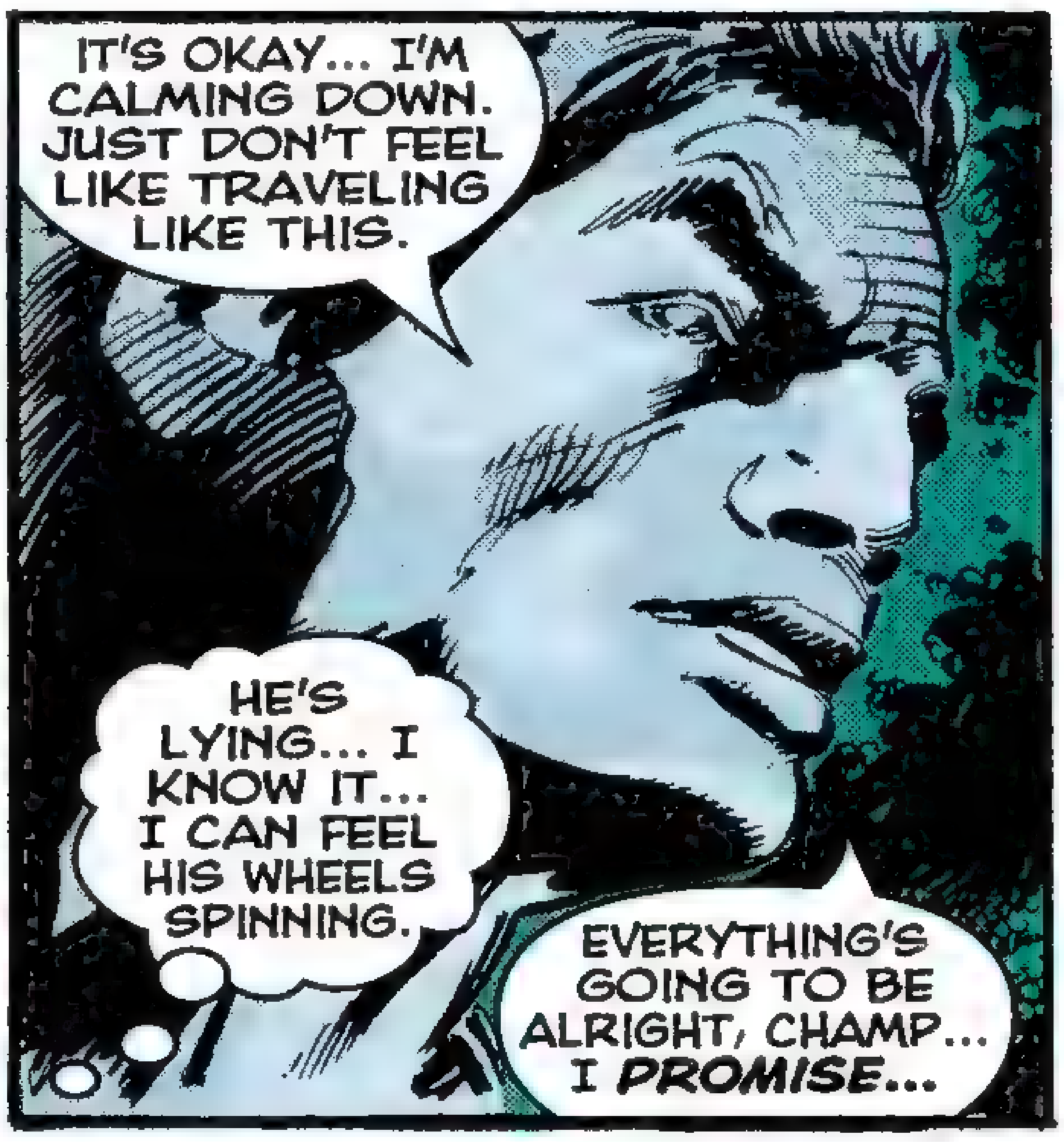
SO HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU TWO HUNDRED MILES AWAY?
YOU'RE NOT... YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO TRUST *THAT* YOU DID OKAY AND THAT I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.
CHECK IT OUT, DUDE...
PRECIOUS MOMENT... HELL...
I DON'T KNOW... I GUESS...
LOOK... GET ME ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE, WOULD YA? I...
I GOTTA GO USE THE CAN. BE RIGHT BACK.
SURE, DAD.
I NEVER REALIZED HOW *GUILTY* HE STILL FELT OVER THE ACCIDENT... OR HOW *WORRIED* HE IS ABOUT MY BEING ON MY OWN.
WHAT'S *WORSE* IS THAT HE HAS NO CLUE I'M BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE MYSELF *NOW* THAN I WAS *BEFORE* THE ACCIDENT!
BUT I *CAN'T* TELL HIM ABOUT MY *SENSES*... MY *SECRET TRAINING*. IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING HE'S *TAUGHT* ME --
BRAK
SOOOO WHAT WE GOT HERE? A COLLEGE BOY SO COOL HE WEARS HIS *SUNGLASSES* AT *NIGHT?* HOW YOU DOIN, *FRIEND?*

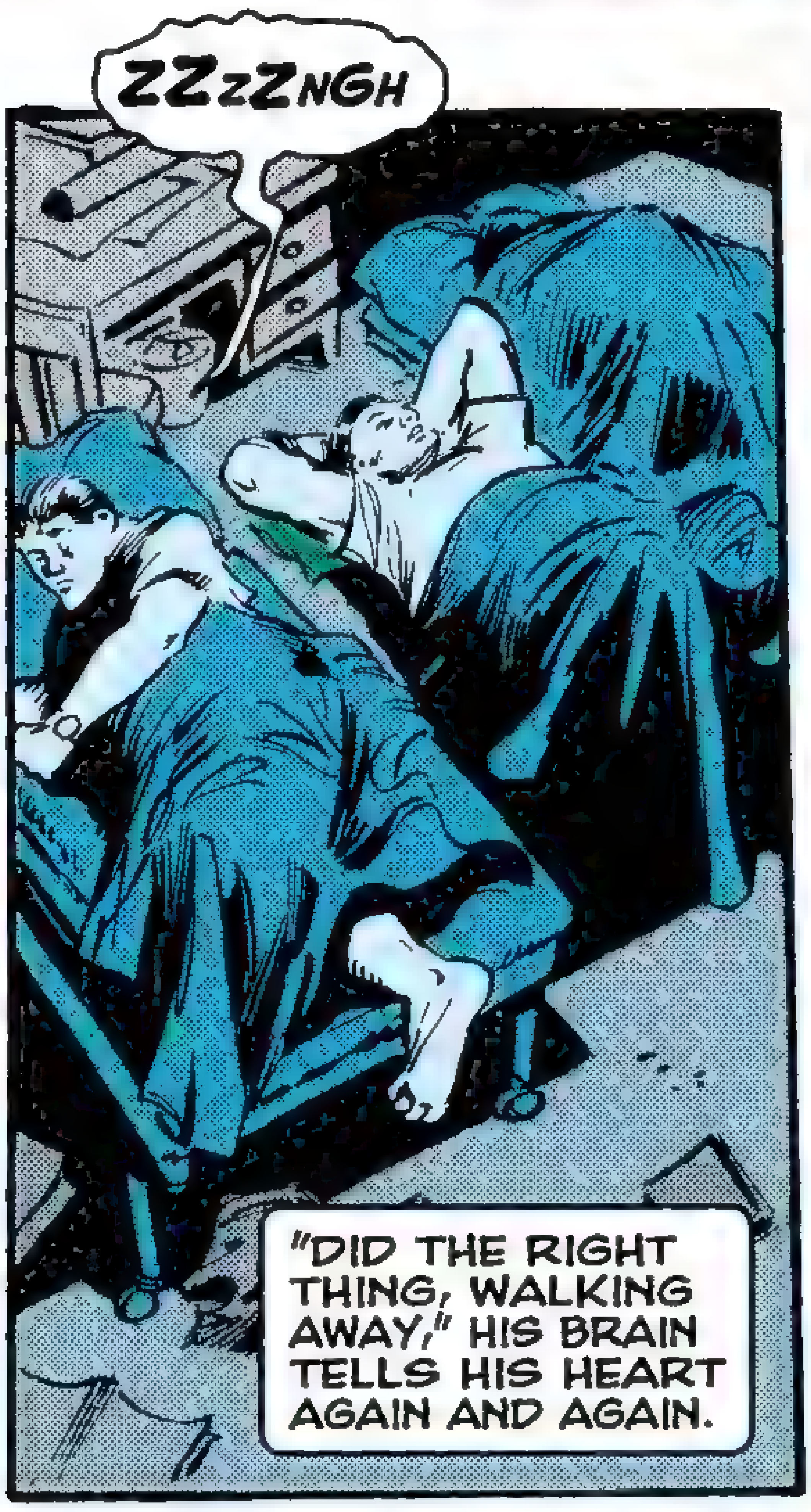
EXCUSE ME, DO I KNOW YOU?
NOPE, BUT I KNOW YOU... YOUR KIND AT LEAST.
COME INTO TOWN WITH YOUR DADDY'S MONEY AND YER MOMMA'S CAR LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE...
LOOKIN' DOWN ON THE LOCAL FOLKS WHO WORK IN YOUR DININ' HALLS AND SWEEP UP AFTER YOUR THREE-KEGGERS AT THE UN-I-VERS-I-TEE.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T DRINK --
-- AND I DON'T LOOK DOWN ON ANYONE... OR ANYTHING... EVER. SEE?
YO, HE'S BLIND, BENJ.
YEAH, SO?
HE STILL DON'T BELONG HERE. THIS IS A PLACE FOR LOCALS! NOT PRETTY-BOY STATERS.
I'M FLATTERED YOU THINK I'M PRETTY, BENJ, BUT IF THIS IS A PICK-UP...
...YOU SHOULD REALLY WORK ON YOUR DELIVERY... AND GET SOME BREATH MINTS WHILE YOUR AT IT.
Uh... BENJ?
WHY, YOU SON OF A --

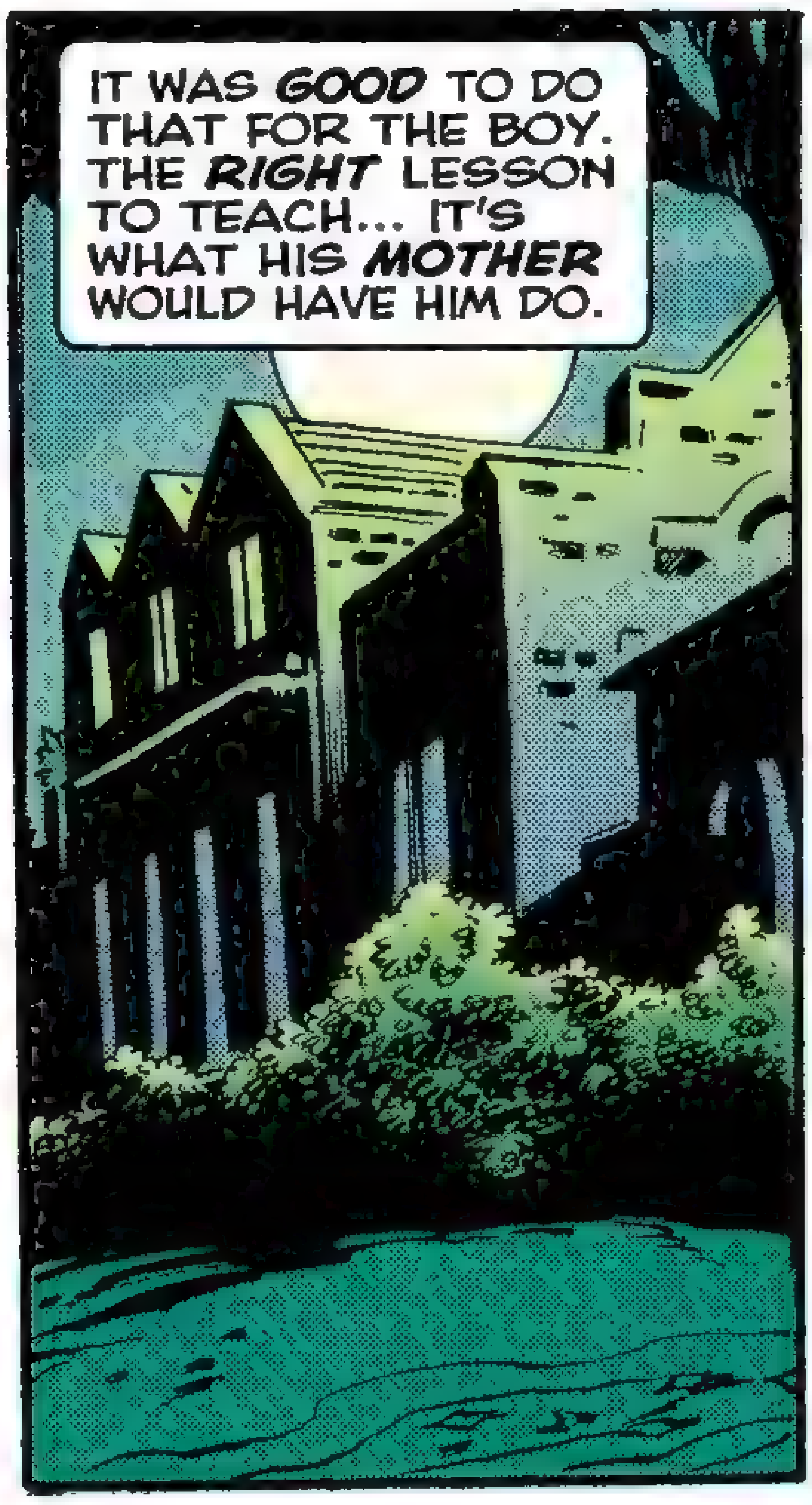
WHO THE --
FWAPP
HOLE --
COME'ERE YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE! WE'RE GONNA HAVE WORDS!
YO, WHAT'CHOO GONNA DO, MAN? WHAT'CHOO GONNA DO?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
SURE, PUNK... RIGHT AFTER I POUND 'EM INTA YA A COUPLE OF TIMES!
WHAT KIND OF ANIMAL ARE YOU, PICKIN' ON A BLIND BOY?!
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT KIND, OLD MAN!
DAD! WAIT!
HE'S NOT LISTENING... HIS HEARTBEATS LIKE A JACKHAMMER... WAIT, I SMELL OIL ON THAT KID...
HE'S GOING FOR A BLADE... AND HE MIGHT JUST BE DRUNK ENOUGH TO USE IT!
COME ON!
SNIKT
STICK HIM, BENJI!
DAD, COME ON, THIS IS POINTLESS! HE'S GOT A KNIFE --
GOOD! THAT MAKES IT EVEN!

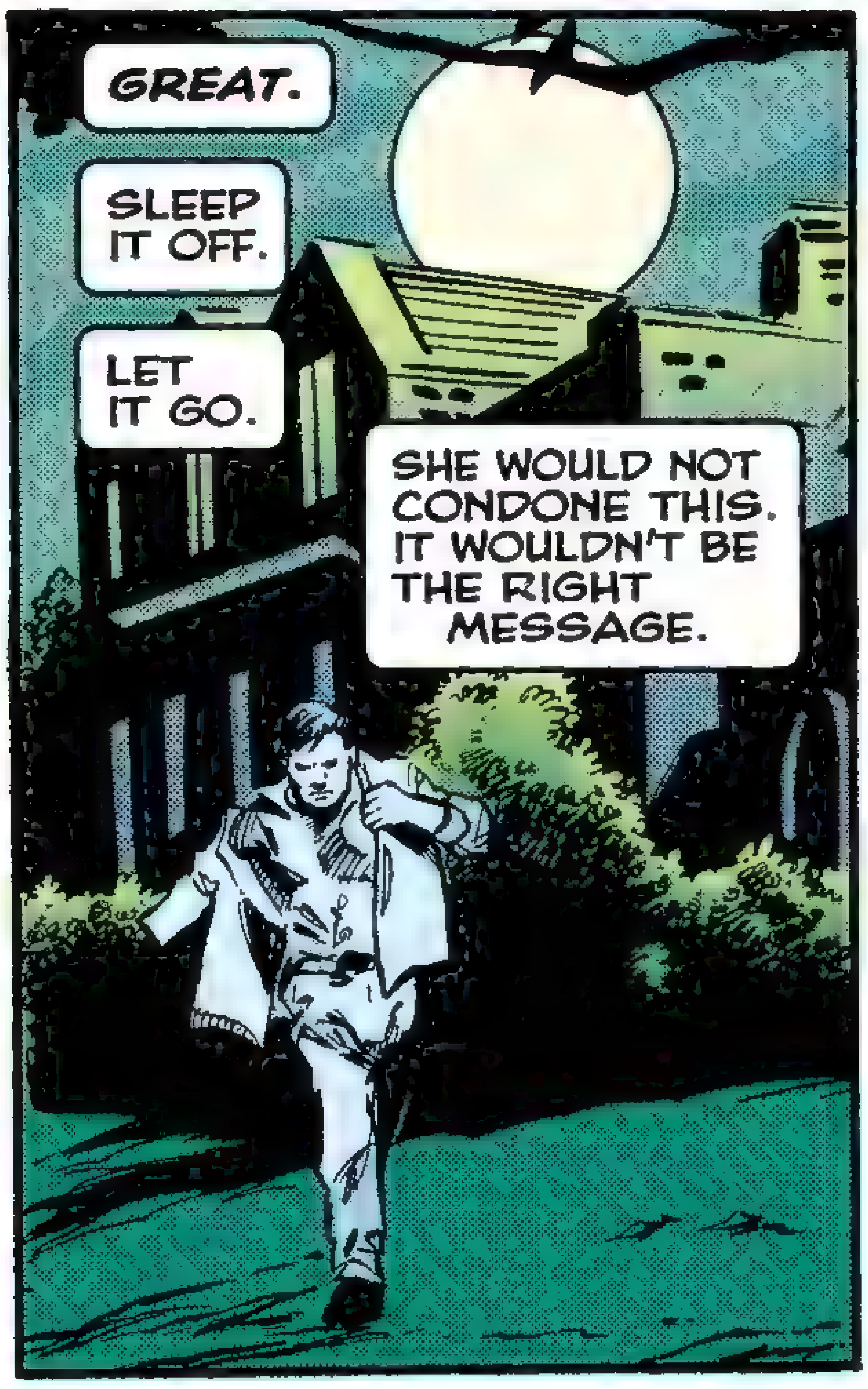
DAD WE BOTH **KNOW** YOU CAN CREAM THEM, BUT THESE CHUMPS AREN'T **WORTH** THE TROUBLE --
BUT --
BRAINS OVER **FISTS...** REMEMBER? BRAINS OVER FISTS.
AND DON'T COME BACK!
DAD!
THAWAKK
NOT RIGHT... THIS ISN'T WHAT **COLLEGE** IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT! SUPPOSED TO BE **SAFE...**
I'M NOT GONNA SEND MY BOY OUT OF THE **CITY** SO HE CAN GET A SHIV PULLED ON HIM IN SOME **HICK BAR!?**
DAD, IT'S OKAY! MOST PLACES AREN'T LIKE THAT ONE... I'LL BE FINE. COME ON, **SLOW DOWN** --
BUT WHAT IF I WASN'T THERE? THEN WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED? TOO FAR AWAY... TOO FAR...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE. THEY WERE JUST MOUTHING OFF --
THAT DOESN'T MATTER! YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO WHERE YOU WANT! TURNING THE OTHER CHEEK ONLY GETS YOU **MUSCLED OUT** --
YOU GOTTA BE **STRONG** ENOUGH TO STAND YOUR GROUND, AND YOU'RE JUST NOT -- ⪢SIGH⪡

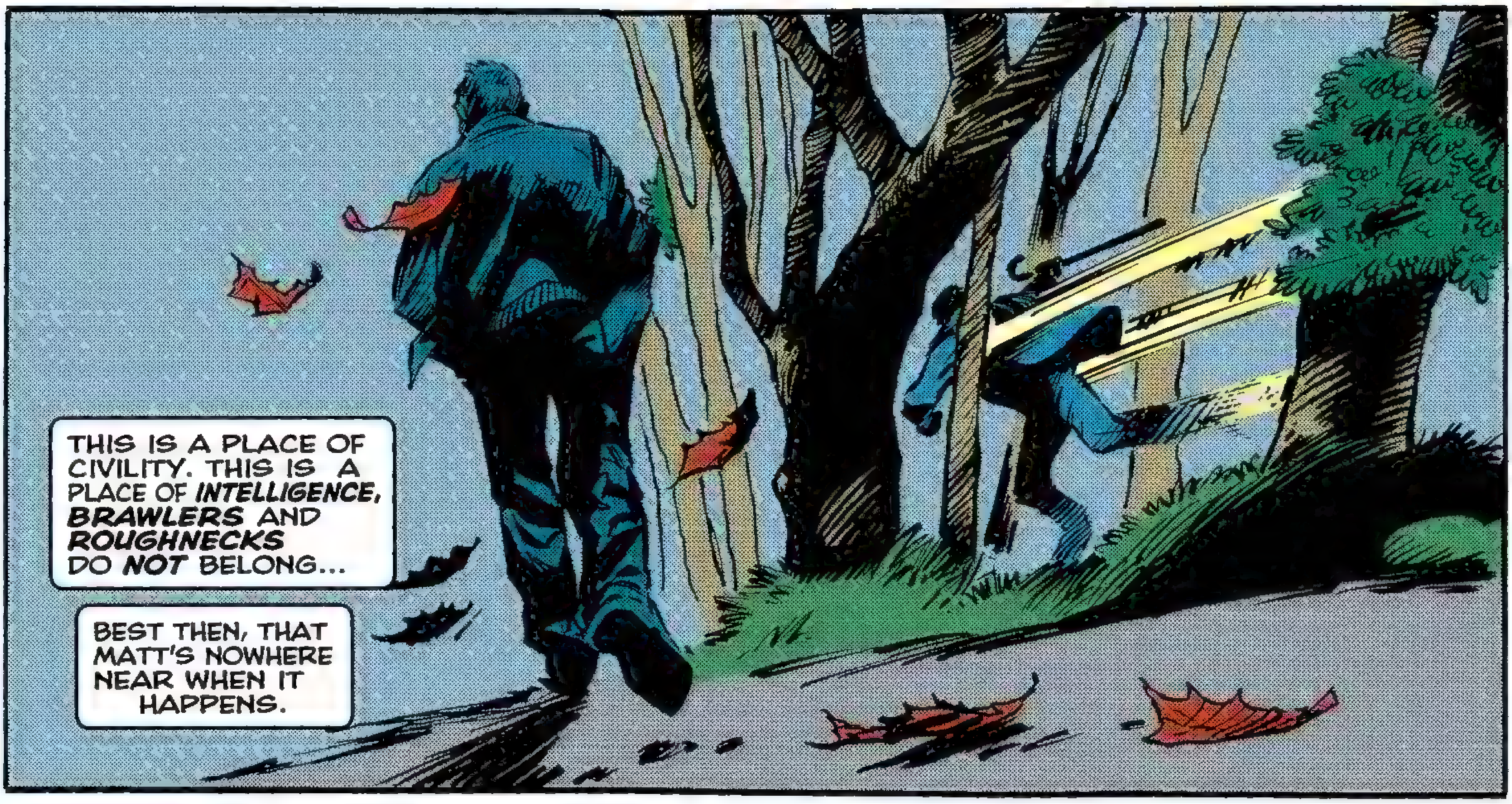

I'M SORRY, MATTY... I'M JUST STEAMED... I DIDN'T MEAN --
IT'S OKAY, DAD... REALLY.
I'M GONNA CRASH ON YOUR FLOOR TONIGHT, OKAY? I'LL LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
DAD...


IT'S OKAY... I'M CALMING DOWN. JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE TRAVELING LIKE THIS.
HE'S LYING... I KNOW IT... I CAN FEEL HIS WHEELS SPINNING.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT, CHAMP... I *PROMISE...*


ZZzZNGH
"DID THE RIGHT THING, WALKING AWAY," HIS BRAIN TELLS HIS HEART AGAIN AND AGAIN.


IT WAS *GOOD* TO DO THAT FOR THE BOY. THE *RIGHT* LESSON TO TEACH... IT'S WHAT HIS *MOTHER* WOULD HAVE HIM DO.


GREAT.
SLEEP IT OFF.
LET IT GO.
SHE WOULD NOT CONDONE THIS. IT WOULDN'T BE THE RIGHT MESSAGE.


THIS IS A PLACE OF CIVILITY. THIS IS A PLACE OF *INTELLIGENCE*. *BRAWLERS* AND *ROUGHNECKS* DO *NOT* BELONG...
BEST THEN, THAT MATT'S NOWHERE NEAR WHEN IT HAPPENS.

IT WOULD SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE IF THE BOY WERE TO SEE HIS FATHER PUT HIS *HEAD* ON HOLD...
...AND LET HIS FISTS DO THEIR JOB.
A *GOOD* FATHER KEEPS THAT ANGRY FACE OF THE WORLD AWAY FROM HIS KIDS...
...FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN...
...THOUGH SOMETIMES...
LOOKIE LOOKIE! IT'S COLLEGE BOY BACK WITHOUT THE OLD MAN!
EXCUSE ME, BARTENDER? CAN I GET A GINGER ALE PLEASE --
THOUGHT I TOLD YOU, YOU AIN'T *WELCOME* HERE, COLLEGE!
YOU DID...
BUT I'M DEAF TOO, CAN'T YOU TELL? NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'D LIKE TO BUY A SODA.
AWRIGHT, THAT IS *OFFICIAL* LIP! THAT'S HOW THE *BOY* WANTS IT --
-- THEN HE *GETS* IT!
GOOD *HEAVENS!* I'VE *DROPPED* MY DOLLAR. HOW *CLUMSY* OF ME!

SWIFFF
HEY! STAND STILL --
HOW WILL I, A *HELPLESS BLIND COLLEGE BOY,* EVER RETRIEVE MY *VAST* FORTUNE --
AH! SWEET SUCCESS! NOW TO *STAND* UP AND --
CLOKK
HEY! WHAT WAS THAT? FELT LIKE MY HEAD HIT A *GLASS JAW* OR SOMETHING...
HOW *STRANGE.*
OH WELL... NOW TO FIND THE BARTENDER...
OH, *BARKEEP?*
MAYBE I'VE BEEN SOCKED IN THE HEAD ONE TOO MANY TIMES...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MATT'S GIVIN' THOSE GUYS THE *BUSINESS!*
NOW, LET'S SEE... IS HE... THIS WAY?
WHACK
NOPE, THAT AIN'T HIM...
OVER HERE, PERHAPS?
HURFF
SIGH I'LL *NEVER* GET A SODA THIS WAY! GOSH, I HATE BEING *SOOOOO HELPLESS.*

HE BROKE MY TEEF... I'M GONNA KILL HIM...
HMMM. MAYBE I'LL JUST WAIT PATIENTLY FOR MY DRINK...
...RIGHT **HERE!**
CRUNCH
ARGH!
GOD! MY **HAND!** PLEASE STOP! **PLEASE!**
HAD ENOUGH, BENJI?
YES... OH GOD... GET OFF, MAN...
MY NAME IS NOT **MAN**... IT'S **MATT MURDOCK.** NOW ASK ME AGAIN... **NICELY.**
MR. MURDOCK... PLEASE, MR. MURDOCK... PLEASE...
VERY **GOOD,** BENJ. AFTER FOUR OR FIVE BONES ARE **BROKEN** IN YOUR HAND, YOU'RE A **FAST LEARNER!**
NOW I WANT YOU TO PRACTICE THAT **"MR. MURDOCK"** PART, SO THAT **NEXT** TIME I COME IN HERE, WE CAN **SKIP** THE REVIEW.
AND I CAN GET RIGHT DOWN TO DINING IN MY **NEW FAVORITE** RESTAURANT.
Y-YES SIR...

CLAP CLAP CLAP
YOU HANDLED YOURSELF PRETTY WELL THERE, *'SPECIALLY* FOR A BLIND KID... *UH...* *MR. MURDOCK,* WAS IT?
YES, THANK YOU... *SIR.* I GREW UP IN A PRETTY TOUGH NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY...
MY *FATHER* TAUGHT ME HOW TO *TAKE CARE* OF MYSELF.
Y'KNOW, *BRAINS* OVER *BRAWN.* HE'S A *VERY* SMART MAN.
NAW... I BET HE'S JUST *LUCKY*... T'HAVE A KID LIKE *YOU...*
ACTUALLY, SIR, I THINK THAT *I'M* THE LUCKY ONE.
SO... I GUESS THIS IS *IT.*
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY FOR BREAKFAST, DAD?
NAW I'D BETTER BE GETTIN' ON...
...YOU DON'T NEED ME *CRAMPIN'* YOUR STYLE ANYMORE...
IT'S OKAY, DAD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUN OFF... I MEAN...
NO, MATTY... IT'S *TIME.*

DAD?
YOU THINK I'M GONNA DO *ALRIGHT* HERE? *ALONE?* HONESTLY...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW FROM *COLLEGE*, MATT, BUT I DO KNOW *PEOPLE*...
AN' SOON AS YOU SET *FOOT* ON THAT CAMPUS, I *KNEW* YOU WAS GOIN' TO BE ALRIGHT.
ALL OF A SUDDEN... I SURE DON'T FEEL IT...
YOU KIDDING? THE WAY YOU CARRY YOURSELF... CHIN UP, BOLD LIKE YOU OWN THE JOINT..
...IT'S LIKE WATCHING A *MAN WITHOUT FEAR!*
IF YOU SAY SO, POP... IF YOU'RE SURE.
I'VE NEVER BEEN *MORE* SURE OF ANYTHING IN MY *LIFE*...
...AND I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE *PROUD* TO HAVE YOU AS MY SON.
I LOVE YOU, CHAMP.
NOW YOU GO ON... AND YOU *KNOCK 'EM DEAD* FOR YOUR OLD MAN.
I WILL, DAD... I *PROMISE*.
THE END

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
AUG
#366
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BEGINING THIS ISSUE: A BOLD NEW ERA IN DD's LIFE!
Featuring YOUR NEW GUIDE to the MARVEL UNIVERSE!
AND HE'S GOT NOTHING TO FEAR...
KELLY
COLAN
WILLIAMSON
...BUT FEAR HIMSELF!

NEW YORK CITY.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.
"WALLS.
"SEPARATION. PROTECTION. CONFINEMENT.
"HERE, IN OUR... ESTEEMED INSTITUTION, WALLS ALLOW YOU THE FREEDOM TO PURSUE INTELLECTUAL ENDEAVORS...
"...WHILE PROTECTING YOU FROM THE FILTH, CRIME AND INEQUITIES OF THE CRUEL WORLD MERE FEET BEYOND.
"FOR THE PRIVILEGED, WALLS ARE A BLESSING... BUT IS THERE A COST?
"WHEN ONE INVERTS THE EQUATION, TAKES THE 'UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS' AND SURROUNDS THEM WITH WALLS...
"...ONE HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO A VERY DIFFERENT BEAST.
"ONE HAS DISCOVERED PRISON...
"...AND A NEW DEFINITION OF PUNISHMENT."

OSCAR WILDE WRITES, "THE VILEST DEEDS LIKE POISON WEEDS BLOOM WELL IN PRISON AIR..."
"...IT IS ONLY THAT WHAT IS GOOD IN MAN, THAT WASTES AND WITHERS THERE...
"...PALE ANGUISH KEEPS THE HEAVY GATE, AND THE WARDER IS DESPAIR."
FOR WILDE, PRISON IS NOT ABOUT REHABILITATION, AS THE LIBERAL ELITE WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE...
...BUT RATHER SIMPLE, RUTHLESS, BARBARIC DEHUMANIZATION.
THOUGHTS, CLASS?
ZZZZZ
PERHAPS, Mr. STEADMAN HAS SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE...
FWIPP
ZZZNGURK?!
I -- OH MAN... I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR. LATE NIGHT IN THE LIBRARY... I --
MY HEART BLEEDS.
YOUR THOUGHTS ON PRISON, Mr. STEADMAN... NOW THAT THEY'VE BEEN JOSTLED LOOSE.
IT SEEMS SELF-EVIDENT TO ME, SIR, THAT PRISON SHOULD BE A MISERABLE PLACE. IF NOT, WHAT'S THE POINT?
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF REHABILITATION? HOW CAN ONE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE REBIRTH...
...IN A PLACE WHICH HASTENS THE DEATH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT?
WELL SIR... I KNOW IT'S NOT A POPULAR OPINION TODAY... BUT I'M NOT SURE THAT PRISON IS THE PLACE FOR REHABILITATION.
IT'S A PLACE TO PUNISH THE UNJUST, PURE AND SIMPLE, AND FEAR OF THAT PUNISHMENT SHOULD PROVE TO BE A DETERRENT.

PRISON WITHOUT WALLS

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
PUNISHMENT... PURE AND SIMPLE... COUPLED WITH FEAR... ...I DO BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE ON TO SOMETHING, Mr. STEADMAN.
JOE KELLY WRITER
GENE COLAN PENCILER
AL WILLIAMSON INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORIST
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF INMATES
JAYE GARDNER JAILER
BOB HARRAS WARDEN

UNLIKE ***MOST*** COMMUTERS, I USUALLY ***ENJOY*** THE MORNING RUSH IN ***NEW YORK CITY***.
SWINGING HIGH OVER THE BUMPER-TO-BUMPER SOUP, JUST ABOVE THE PERPETUAL VEIL OF FUMES...
I'M TREATED TO A ***UNIQUE SERENADE*** OF SQUEALING HORNS, SCREECHING BRAKES AND ***WELL INTENDED*** SWEAR WORDS...
...WITH JUST A HINT OF HOWARD STERN ***RHAPSODIZING*** IN THE BACKGROUND. IN A TWISTED WAY, IT'S ***BEAUTIFUL...*** REALLY...
CITY TOURS 2
2 ON TOURS
...WELL, IT IS FROM TWENTY STORIES UP. AT GROUND LEVEL... THE WHOLE THING SORT OF LOSES ITS CHARM.
SHEE-OOT! WILL YOU LOOKIT ***THAT!***
HURRY, BEFORE HE GITS A ***CRAMP*** AN' LEAVES...
I'M WAITIN' FOR THE ***FLASH, SEYMOUR!***
I REALLY REALLY ***REALLY*** HOPE ***SPIDEY*** DOESN'T CATCH WIND OF THIS...
...IF HE DOES, I'LL ***NEVER*** HEAR THE END OF IT. BUS JOKES FOR MONTHS...
ALTHOUGH, I BET EVEN HE COULD APPRECIATE THE ***IRONY*** OF A ***BLIND*** GUY SURFING CROSS TOWN ON TOP OF A ***SIGHTSEEING*** BUS.
THEN AGAIN, IT'D PROBABLY GO OVER HIS WEBBED HEAD.
WAIT! LEMME GIT IN ***THERE*** WITH HIM! BOYS IN MY RIFLE CLUB'LL ***LOVE*** THIS!

BUT ALL KIDDING ASIDE, WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE TO CROSS TOWN...
WHEN ONE FINDS ONE'S SELF *MISSING* ONE'S BILLY CLUB AND *GRAPPLING LINE?* Huh?
I MEAN, WE CAN'T ALL SHOOT *WEBS* LIKE SOME CRAWLING BUG --
COME ON! WHILE HE'S NOT *LOOKIN'!*
I'M GOING OUT ON A LIMB HERE...*OUT-OF-TOWNERS,* RIGHT?
LAN' SAKES! HE *TALKS!* SAY *CHEESE, DEVIL-MAN!*
VREET
Oh, COME ON! *"CHEESE"* IS SO, *CLICHE!*
NO, THAT WON'T DO AT ALL...TOO DERIVATIVE...
PERHAPS IN HONOR OF YOUR TRIP TO THE *BIG APPLE,* I SHOULD RATTLE OFF A BROADWAY *SHOW TUNE?*
HOW 'BOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE APROPOS? SOMETHING LIKE...
"UP, UP, AND AWAYYY!
I GOT HIM, SEYMOUR! I GOT A PICTURE OF *DEVIL-MAN!*
WOW...
WOW, *INDEED,* MISS... HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED A CAREER IN NEWS *PHOTOGRAPHY..?*

DINER
SO THEN WHAT?
THAT WAS HER LAST **SHOT** ON THE ROLL. SEYMOUR ALMOST **DISLOCATED** HIS FINGERS TRYING TO **RELOAD** THE CAMERA...
I SAID I COULDN'T HANG AROUND, BUT I GAVE HER A LITTLE PECK ON THE CHEEK TO REMEMBER ME BY.
SEYMOUR WAS **FURIOUS.**
Oh, YOU'RE **BAD, MURDOCK...** HOMEWRECKING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING. I'M APPALLED.
APPALLED? SURE YOU DON'T MEAN **JEALOUS,** KAREN?
HA! SOME MIDWESTERN MAVEN WANTS DAREDEVIL...
...SHE CAN HAVE **HIM,** HIS **BRUISES,** AND HIS **SMELLY** RED **LONG-JOHNS!**
SO LONG AS SHE KEEPS HER MITTS OFF OF **MY LAWYER.**
SEE, IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, PROPERTY OF **KAREN PAGE.** SO **THERE.**
I WONDER IF THAT'S A LEGALLY **BINDING** DOCUMENT...
Oh, **YOU** --
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, HERE COMES BREAKFAST.
SHOWOFF. SHE WASN'T EVEN OUT OF THE KITCHEN YET. HOW COULD YOU TELL THAT WAS **OUR** FOOD?
EVEN WITHOUT **HYPER-SENSES,** THE SMELL OF A **JELLY** AND **PEPPER** OMELET IS TOUGH TO MISS... YECHH.
YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY, COUNSELOR, DON'T KNOCK IT TILL YOU'VE **FRIED** IT.
SO, ENOUGH ABOUT **MY** ALTER EGO... HOW ABOUT **YOURS?**

PAIGE ANGEL? WELL, LAST NIGHT SHE FLUBBED A MONOLOGUE, LOST THREE CALLERS, AND ACCIDENTALLY INSULTED THE MAYOR...
IT WAS ROUGH, MATT, WALKING BACK INTO THE STUDIO, SO SOON AFTER THE WHOLE INSOMNIA THING...
TO BE HONEST, I WAS CONSIDERING GIVING PAIGE ANGEL A PERMANENT VACATION...
BUT THEN I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT YOU WOULD SAY...THAT I CAN'T LET MY LIFE BE RULED BY FEAR.
FEAR... I'M SURE NOW THAT Mr. FEAR WAS BEHIND THE PSYCHO WHO ATTACKED KAREN... THE THEFT AT OSBORN CLINCHED IT.
BUT DOES THAT MEAN THAT HE TARGETED KAREN TO GET TO ME? DOES HE KNOW HER RELATIONSHIP TO DAREDEVIL?
BEST NOT TO SAY ANYTHING UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE...
THAT'S MY BRAVE, BRAVE GIRL.
I BET YOU COULD TEACH EVEN A "MAN WITHOUT FEAR" A THING OR TWO...
SMEK
HMM... HURRY UP AND PAY FOR BREAKFAST, AND MAYBE WE CAN FIT A LESSON IN BEFORE WORK...
MEANWHILE, A WORLD AWAY... IN THE EAST RIVER...
BEHIND SOME VERY SERIOUS WALLS...

ALL IS QUIET ON RIKER'S ISLAND.
THIS IS NOT A GOOD THING.
YES, THERE IS STILL NOISE. FOOTSTEPS ECHO... THE PHYSICAL PLANT STILL HUMS...
...AND THERE IS A SENSE OF BREATHING, LIKE WHITE NOISE IN THE BACKGROUND, A CONTINUOUS MURMUR...
BUT NO ONE REALLY SPEAKS. YELLS. FIGHTS.
THE AIR IS THICK WITH SILENCE, AND THE OLD-TIMERS... THEY KNOW BEST...
...THAT SILENCE MEANS THOUGHT.
BLOCK 7
THOUGHT MEANS PLANNING...
...AND HERE, IN A PLACE WHERE DESPERATION GIVES BIRTH TO MOTIVATION...
...PLANS MEAN VICTIMS.
Please Deliver To Mathew Murdock Lawyor URGENT
BLOCK 7

MEANWHILE, AS RAIN BEGINS TO FALL OUTSIDE OF THE SWANKY MIDTOWN LAW OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON, AND MURDOCK...
LEGALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS A 'CLASS A' BAD SITUATION, ISN'T IT, MATT?
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, LIZ. ON THE ONE HAND...
...WE HAVE VINCENT GRAZIA, EX-CON, WHO CONFESSES TO ATTACKING A ROOM FULL OF EXECUTIVES WITH FEAR GAS...
...IN ORDER TO SEND YOUR STEP-BROTHER, THE MOLTEN MAN, INTO A POTENTIALLY LETHAL RAGE...
...SO THAT Mr. FEAR CAN ABSCOND WITH A TRUCKLOAD OF OSBORN CHEMICALS, UNHAMPERED. ALL BAD.
ON THE OTHER HAND... I'M VINNIE'S LAWYER.
THAT ADDS UP TO MORE LIKE A 'CLASS B-MINUS' BAD SITUATION.
THE THOUGHT OF HIM IN PRISON... GOD, IT'S SO AWFUL, MATT. MARK TREATED VINNIE LIKE A BROTHER...
...TO BETRAY US LIKE THAT -- TO HELP Mr. FEAR... I UTTERLY REFUSE TO BELIEVE IT WAS OF HIS OWN FREE WILL.
LIZ, FEAR HAS MADE A CAREER OF MANIPULATING POOR KIDS LIKE VINNIE, BUT HIS HOOKS ONLY REACH SO FAR.
I PROMISE YOU THAT IF THERE'S A WAY TO GET THROUGH TO VINNIE AND DRAW THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM...
...I AM NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL I FIND IT.
THANK YOU, MATT... I KNOW YOU'LL CLEAR HIS NAME...

HEY, MATT! CHECK OUT WHAT I JUST TAUGHT DEUCE TO DO!
COME ON, BOY! SHOW UNCLE MATT THE STUPID PET TRICK --
HURFF
FOGGY?
Oh, BOY. HI, LIZ...
...THIS... Uh... ISN'T THE ONLY THING I DID TODAY... HONEST...
...SO, YOU STILL THINK I'M A BIG FAT JERK OR WHAT?
EVER THE STATESMAN, FOGGY NELSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
...LIZ. I'LL CALL YOU FROM RIKERS. GOOD LUCK, YOU TWO.
Um... SO... YOU SEE "THE PRACTICE" THIS WEEK?
FOGGY NELSON. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU --
YOU ARE ONE OF THE MOST CONSIDERATE, EXTRAORDINARY MEN I HAVE EVER MET!
I AM? SINCE WHEN?
SINCE YOU SENT DAREDEVIL OVER TO MY BROTHER'S MEETING AND HELPED SAVE THE DAY.
SMEK
I DID? EXCELLENT.

YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE AND... *CATCH UP?*
YEAH... I'D *LIKE* THAT, LIZ... I'D LIKE IT A *LOT.*
RING
RING
SHARPE, NELSON AND --
-- YES, SIR, YOU JUST MISSED *Mr. MURDOCK.,* BUT...
...AN *EMERGENCY?* OF COURSE...
...YES, SIR, I MYSELF WILL SEE THAT Mr. MURDOCK GETS THE MESSAGE *PERSONALLY...*
...YES... REGARDING *MARY WALKER.* YES... *WALKER...*
The consequences of this cryptic message are too epic to fit within the pages of this book! For the whole story, check out DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97, on sale next month! --Jaye.
EVERYTHING ABOUT *RIKER'S ISLAND* SETS MY SENSES INTO A *TAILSPIN.*
THE REEK OF ANTISEPTIC SOAP AND DELOUSING AGENTS AND TOO MANY BODIES *MUGS* MY NOSE.
VINCENT.
STALE FLAVOR OF PERSPIRATION COMBINED WITH NICOTINE -- THE TASTE OF EVERY *DIVE BAR* I'VE EVER FOUND A *BODY* IN.

THE WHOLE PLACE MAKES ME SICK...
I WANT TO HELP YOU.
NOTHING. NOT A TWITCH.
VINNIE'S HEARTBEAT IS ERRATIC, AND HIS SWEAT CARRIES A TRACE OF AMMONIA...
...HIS BODY IS REJECTING SOMETHING THROUGH THE SKIN... THE REMNANTS OF FEAR GAS...
...HAVE TO GET THROUGH TO HIM SOMEHOW...
...VINNIE, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU. VINNIE...
...YOUR WIFE AND DAUGHTER MISS YOU.
M-MY WIFE? I --
-- I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY.

I CAN'T HAVE A FAMILY... I DON'T DESERVE ONE... ≷GASP≶ Oh GOD.
A-ALL I HAVE... M-MEANS NOTHING... N-NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH... YES... YES... I'LL BE GOOD...
HIS VOICE... SO DISTANT... ALMOST AS IF HE'S NOT SPEAKING TO ME... HIS PULSE JUST SPED UP... SHALLOW BREATHING... COULD HE BE HALLUCINATING?
THE T-TRUTH... THAT...T-THAT Mr. FEAR PAID ME TO DO WHAT I DID. I W-WORK FOR FEAR...
THEY MISS YOU, VINNIE. THEY WANT YOU TO COME HOME.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, VINNIE. WE BOTH KNOW --
FEAR IS GOD.
VINCENT! IF YOU WORK WITH ME, I CAN PROTECT ALL THREE OF YOU --
FEAR CONTROLS EVERYTHING. KNOWS EVERYTHING. HEARS EVERY-THING.
FEAR IS GOD. I SERVE HIM... FOREVER...

PLEASE... LET ME BE... I DON'T WANT TO *TALK*...
HE'S SO FAR GONE... BLAST YOU, FEAR... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?!
SORRY T'INTERRUPT DUE PROCESS, COUNSELOR... BUT DIS JUST CAME FOR YOU...
URGENT. FROM YOUR *FIRM*.
THIS PACKAGE... THE WEIGHT... THE SHAPE... IT CAN'T BE!
HE'S GOD... HE CAN DO ANYTHING... GO ANYWHERE... HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
IT'S MY *BILLY CLUB!*
INSOMNIA STOLE IT FROM *DAREDEVIL* WHEN WE FOUGHT! BUT IF SOMEONE SENT IT TO *MATT MURDOCK*, THAT MEANS --
FEAR KNOWS *EVERYTHING*.
EEEEOOO
EEOOO
WHAT'S THAT?
HE'S *HERE*.

IN AN INSTANT...
...THE DAY'S SILENCE...
...IS PAINFULLY...
...DEFINITIVELY...
...BROKEN.
RIOT.

IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE, **CONTROL**?!
IT'S LIKE ALL OF THE CELL-LOCKS WERE DISENGAGED AT **ONCE**!
OF COURSE THEY WERE...
DO YOU **HONESTLY** THINK THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENS MIRACULOUSLY?
HA HA HA
WHO IS THAT! WHERE -- NO! **NOOO!**
...
NERVOUS YET, MURDOCK?
YES... I CAN FEEL IT, BEHIND THE CONSERVATIVE **MASK**, YOU TREMBLE...
YOU KNOW I COME HERE FOR **YOU**...
BUT **STEW** A FEW MOMENTS MORE...
WHILE I ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS OF **SURVEILLANCE**...
AND AFFAIRS OF **TERROR!**

DEEP IN AN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN SUB-BASEMENT OF RIKERS... ISOLATED FROM THE MELEE ABOVE...
HEAR THAT?
YUP. RIOT.
SHOULD WE GO *HELP?*
NOPE. ORDERS.
RIGHT. ORDERS... DARN.
RATHER BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A *RIOT* INSTEAD OF GUARDING *THIS ONE.*
YOU *SAID* IT, BROTHER... YOU SAID IT.
MEANWHILE, TOPSIDE...
LISTEN, GENTLEMEN... DRINK IN THE *CACOPHONY* OF *CHAOS...* ADRENALINE... *DEATH!*
BUT ALAS... THERE IS NO CONTROL HERE. NO ART TO THE PIECE...

LET US BRING MUSIC TO THE *SAVAGES*... GENTLEMEN?
"FOR *MONTHS* I'VE WADED THROUGH BOTCHED ATTEMPTS TO SECURE THESE *LETHAL* COMPONENTS, AND FINALLY, THE TIME IS AT HAND...
FWOOSH
"TO UNLEASH ENOUGH MIND-DISTORTING *FEAR GAS* TO PUT AN ENTIRE *COMMUNITY* UNDER MY THRALL!
COME TO ME, MY *BRASH* AND *BRAZEN* CHILDREN!
FIND ME... YOUR NEW LIFE... YOUR NEW GOD!
FIND Mr. FEAR! AND DO MY BIDDING!

WHAT'S THE **PROCEDURE,** OFFICER --
WE'LL J-JUST STAY HERE, Mr. MURDOCK, WHERE IT'S SAFE...
...I'M A YEAR AWAY FROM MY PENSION. WE'LL JUST WAIT THIS OUT.
THIS IS NO GOOD. I NEED TO **CHANGE** TO **DD** AND SEE HOW I CAN HELP...
...BUT BETWEEN THE GUARD AND VINNIE...
SORRY OLD CHAP... TIME FOR A **NAPPIE...**
...JUST A TAP TO THE **CAROTID ARTERY** TO TEMPORARILY INTERRUPT BLOOD FLOW TO THE **BRAIN...**
UNGHH!
...HE'LL THINK HE PASSED OUT FROM THE STRESS...
...HE'S STRONG, NO **HARM** DONE. SECRET IDENTITY **INTACT.** AND VINNIE...
...HE'S TOO WHACKED OUT TO EVEN REALIZE I'M **GONE.** I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU, PAL...
...FIRST TO SLIP OUT OF THE **MONKEY SUIT...** Uh-oh. THIS CAN'T BE GOOD.
THE LAWYER! THAT'S THE ONE OUR MASTER WANTS! GET HIM!
GIVEN THE INFO I GATHER THROUGH MY **RADAR SENSE,** I FIGURE THESE GUYS AREN'T FROM THE **BAR ASSOCIATION...**

HAS A CERTAIN SOMEONE ENGINEERED THIS WHOLE RIOT JUST TO GET LITTLE OLD ME --?
HUURFF
WHOA! JUST CAUGHT A WHIFF OF THIS ONE'S BREATH... IT'S REPLETE WITH FEAR GAS.
THEIR HEARTBEATS ARE ERRATIC, MISFIRING... CLEARLY NOT THINKING STRAIGHT...
NO NEED TO BE SUBTLE, THEY PROBABLY DON'T EVEN REALIZE I'M BLIND!
SO MANY OF THEM! EVEN IF I CAN TAKE THESE TEN --

-- THERE'S A WHOLE **PRISON** OF GASSED UP INMATES LEFT! NOT TO MENTION FEAR ***HIMSELF!***
HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO --
ONE OF THE INMATES SLIPPED BY ME! WHAT'S HE --
STOP!
DAT'S ENOUGH. WALK... SLOW LIKE. OR YOU LOSE A CLIENT.
I COULD PROBABLY ***KNOCK*** THE GUARD'S GUN OUT OF HIS HAND, BUT HIGH ON ***FEAR GAS,*** THESE MEN ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE...
FINE, TAKE ME TO YOUR ***LEADER.***
DO YOU HEAR ME?
YES... YES... Oh, GOD...
WHAT ARE YOU ***AFRAID*** OF?
YOU! GOD PLEASE... I CAN'T STAND TO ***LOOK*** AT YOU!
VERY WELL, THEN... IF MY ***VISAGE*** SENDS SUCH CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE...
THEN PERHAPS WE SHOULD MAKE IT GO AWAY... ***PERMANENTLY.***
MAKE IT GO AWAY... YES... DO IT... ***ANYTHING.***
MASTER!

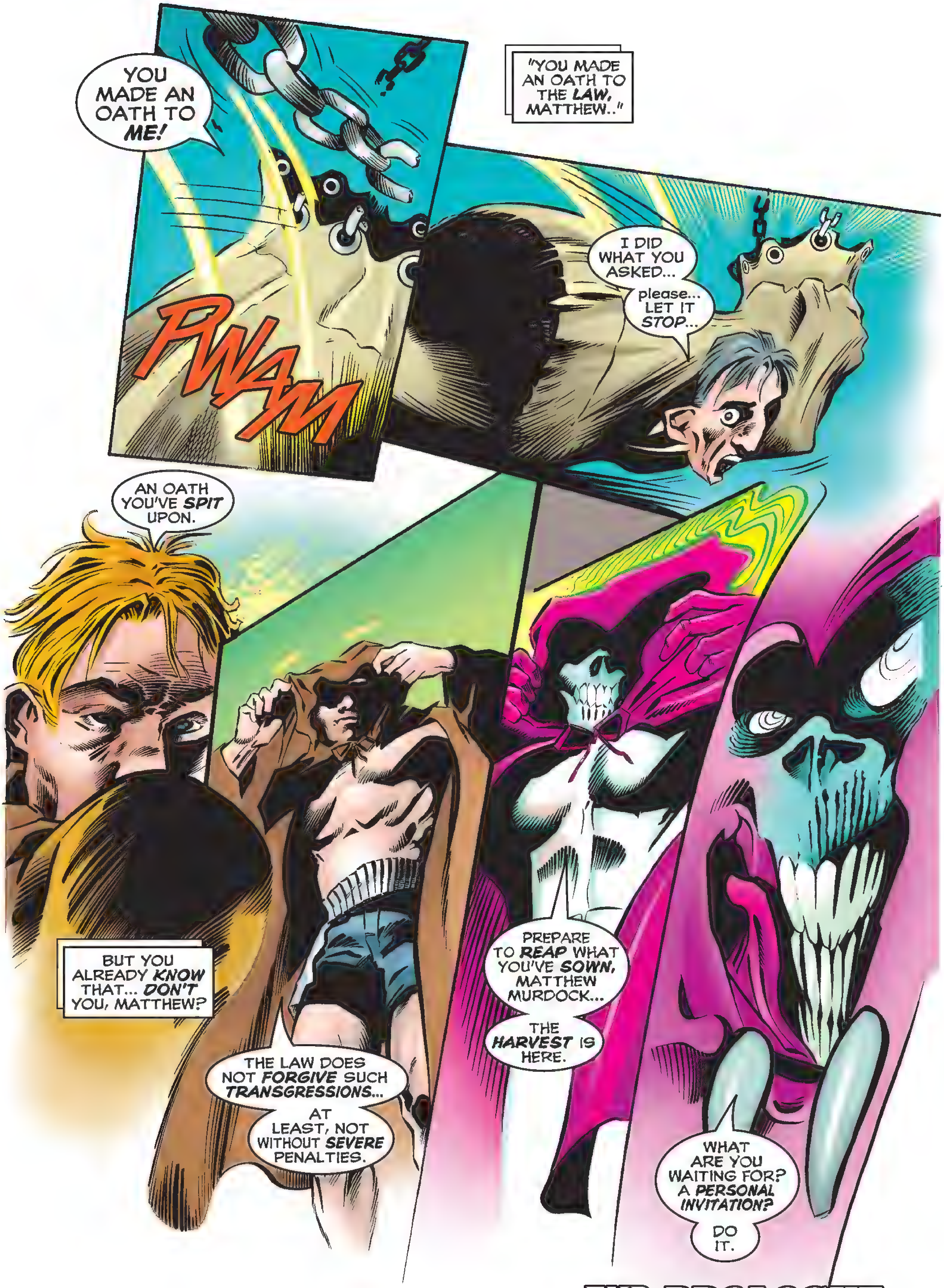
Mr. MURDOCK... WELCOME! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO KILL SOME... TIME... UNTIL YOUR ARRIVAL...
BUT THE GUEST OF HONOR HAS ARRIVED... THE FESTIVITIES CAN BEGIN!
Ah! A LAST SCOWL OF DEFIANCE! PRECIOUS!
BETWEEN US, DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR LITTLE SECRET, Mr. MURDOCK.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR CRIMSON COUNTERPART... I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN YOU... THE MAN...
NOW, YOU REALLY SHOULD BREATHE, BEFORE YOU PASS OUT...
GASP!
A LACKLUSTER GAMBIT, MURDOCK... WHY WOULD YOU FORESTALL YOUR LAST GASP OF FREEDOM?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT DOES ANY WARDEN WANT? JUSTICE... THROUGH PUNISHMENT!
YOU, SIR, ARE A HYPOCRITE! EVERY TIME YOU DARE TO PLAY AS A MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
YOU BLATANTLY DISREGARD THE LAW YOU SO PIOUSLY CLAIM TO UPHOLD! FOR THAT, YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!
THE GAS... SOMEHOW DIFFERENT... AFFECTING ME SO QUICKLY...
ALL OF THIS... STEALING THE CHEMICALS, FRAMING VINNIE... THIS IS ABOUT ME?
YES, MURDOCK! I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST THE CHANCE TO PLAY THE SAVIOR TO A POOR MISUNDERSTOOD EX-CON.
I THOUGHT IT FITTING FOR YOU TO FACE JUDGMENT HERE, WHERE YOU HAVE SENT SO MANY TO ROT... SO MANY LIKE YOU!
WHO ARE YOU?
SOMEONE YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRIFLED WITH... HYPOCRITE. I AM YOUR JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER. .

"ACTUALLY I *LIED*... *THIS* IS YOUR EXECUTIONER!
"**GLADIATOR!** THE ACCUSED HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY! THE SENTENCE... SLOW... AGONIZING... DEATH!"
CONTINUES NEXT ISSUE!

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
AUG
#367
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE CA AUTHORITY
CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS!
KELLY
COLAN
LaROSA
COLAN
S.Hanna

PROLOGUE
THERE'S BEEN A... MINOR INCIDENT ON RIKER'S ISLAND --
NIGHTMARE HAS BECOME REALITY.
THE WALLS ARE DOWN. THE GATES UNLATCHED. THE PRISONERS ARE FREE.
HOWEVER, IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS...
...IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S BEGUN A HUNDRED FEET BELOW.
BELOW THE CHAOS, HIDDEN, QUARANTINED IN A LONG FORGOTTEN VAULT --
RIOT SOUNDS WORSE. SHOULD WE GO LEND A HAND?
NOPE. ORDERS.
YUP.
RIGHT. NOTHING GETS IN. NOTHING GETS OUT. INCLUDING US.
SNIF YOU SMELL SOMETHING?
NOPE.
HEY... I J-JUST HAD A THOUGHT...WHAT IF SOMEHOW H-HE GOT OUT... AND WE DIDN'T REALIZE IT?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... I CAN'T SEE HIM IN THERE...
WE'D BETTER CHECK.
'KAY.
CHCHAK

THERE CAN'T BE *LAW* WITHOUT *PUNISHMENT, MATTHEW...*
THAT'S A *TRUTH* WE HOLD TO BE *SELF-EVIDENT...*
...BUT DO YOU TRULY HAVE THE *AUDACITY* TO BELIEVE THAT IT'S *YOUR* JOB TO DO THE *PUNISHING?*
WITH YOUR OWN *TWO HANDS... FRACTURED* KNUCKLES... *BLOOD* UNDER YOUR *NAILS...*
NO!
THUD
BRAINS OVER FISTS, KID!
PLEASE... *STOP...* I DIDN'T TELL...
VINCENT, PLEASE...I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A *LECTURE.*
HOW MANY TIMES DID I *TELL* YOU THAT, HUH, MATT?! BRAINS OVER *FISTS!*
WHEN YOU *FIGHT,* YOU *DISHONOR* ME, MATT.
THUD
YOU CHEAT *YOURSELF...*
WHOMP


YOU MADE AN OATH TO *ME!*
"YOU MADE AN OATH TO THE *LAW,* MATTHEW.."
PWAM
I DID WHAT YOU ASKED...
please... LET IT *STOP...*
AN OATH YOU'VE *SPIT* UPON.
BUT YOU ALREADY *KNOW* THAT... *DON'T* YOU, MATTHEW?
THE LAW DOES NOT *FORGIVE* SUCH *TRANSGRESSIONS...*
AT LEAST, NOT WITHOUT *SEVERE* PENALTIES.
PREPARE TO *REAP* WHAT YOU'VE *SOWN,* MATTHEW MURDOCK...
THE *HARVEST* IS HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? A *PERSONAL INVITATION?*
DO IT.

END PROLOGUE

CRUEL & UNUSUAL PUNISHMENTS

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
JOE KELLY COURT REPORTER
GENE COLAN TRIAL ARTIST
BUD LAROSA & HARRY CANDELARIO BAILIFFS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE JURISPRUDENCE
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/EM&LA STENOGRAPHY
JAYE GARDNER JUDGE & JURY
BOB HARRAS EXECUTIONER
THE 800-POUND BAG OF ANVILS THAT NEARLY TAKES MY HEAD OFF SNAPS ME OUT OF LA-LA LAND LONG ENOUGH TO REALIZE...
THAT THIS ISN'T ONE OF MY PROUDER MOMENTS.

COULDN'T HEAR THE ATTACK FOR THE **CHURCH BELLS** TEARING THROUGH MY **SKULL...**
...NOT TO MENTION THE **HALLUCINATIONS...** THE **DISTRACTION** OF "**SEEING**" MY DAD...
...BUT FOR A MOMENT, THE SPELL IS **BROKEN,** AND I TRY TO GET MY BEARINGS DURING THE **INTERMISSION...**
...I FEEL **EACH** OF THE **FIFTY** OR SO FINGERS **CLAWING** AT ME... TUGGING...
...SMELL HOT **BREATH** AS THE NEWLY LIBERATED INMATES TELL ME IN DETAIL WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO TO MY **BODY...**
BUT I CAN'T DO A **THING** ABOUT IT. **FEAR GAS...** PRODUCING A NEW SIDE EFFECT... IT'S LIKE I'VE **FORGOTTEN** HOW TO DEFEND MYSELF...
STOP!
AWAY **SCUM!** THE LAWYER IS MINE AND MINE **ALONE!**
I DON'T NEED MY **HYPER-ACUTE SENSES** TO TELL ME THAT THIS GLADIATOR ISN'T JUST A NEW AND IMPROVED **MELVIN POTTER...**
...HIS VOICE **ALONE** TELLS ME THAT THIS GUY'S THE REAL DEAL... A **WARRIOR BORN.**
OUR GLORIOUS **CONTEST** WILL NOT BE **TAINTED** BY THE INTERFERENCE OF **INFIDELS!**

ALL MY FAULT... Mr. FEAR **USED** ME TO GET MURDOCK...
VINNIE GRAZIA, THE **DUPE** AGAIN... MY LIFE **TRASHED...**
AND I **LET** HIM DO IT...
YOU WANT A CONTEST? I'LL GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR **URK**
A WAVE OF **NAUSEA** BLASTS MY GUTS AS THE GAS GOES TO WORK AGAIN...
I KNOW YOU AIN'T GONNA **DISAPPOINT** ME, CHAMP. HIT THE **BOOKS, NOT** A BAG...
AND BLIND EYES **SEE.**
DAD?
BRAINS, NOT FISTS... NOT **MY** KID... NOT **MY** KID...
WHY DOES HE FALTER, FEAR? IS HE NOT THE OPPONENT YOU PROMISED ME?
Oh... HE'S **CRAFTY,** THIS ONE... BUT DON'T LET THIS **GUISE** OF **FRAILTY** FOOL YOU.
EVEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MY **GAS,** HE'S **STILL** A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT... **AREN'T** YOU, MURDOCK?
TO BE HONEST... I HAVE NO **CLUE** WHAT YOU'RE **TALKING** ABOUT...
I... I'M **NOT** A FIGHTER.
YES I AM!
IF ONLY DAD WOULD LET ME...

"HE'S LYING TO YOU... TRYING TO EMBARRASS YOU. MAKE YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN'T HANDLE A CRIPPLE...
"WHAT DO YOU THINK?"
I THINK... THAT EITHER MURDOCK FIGHTS...
OR HE DIES!
MANHATTAN.
THIS BUILDING IS THE TALLEST STRUCTURE FOR FIVE BLOCKS IN ANY DIRECTION.
WFSK
ITS SHADOW CREEPS ALONG HALF OF THE ISLAND, DARKENING EVERYTHING... JUST AS ITS FORMER OWNER INTENDED.
BUT TODAY, THE KINGPIN OF CRIME IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND...
AND WFSK IS A RESPECTABLE OPERATION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE SHUTTING US DOWN!?
THOUGH THE SHADOW OF DOUBT STILL LINGERS...
THIS IS SOME SORT OF POORLY TIMED APRIL FOOLS' JOKE, RIGHT?
IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN ASLEEP, Ms. PAIGE, THIS STATION WAS RECENTLY USED IN AN ATTACK ON NEW YORK CITY!
AS THE MAYOR'S LIAISON TO THE ORGANIZED CRIME TASK FORCE, IT'S MY JOB TO DETERMINE WHO'S RESPONSIBLE.
THIS PROPERTY IS BEING SEIZED, AND ALL PERSONNEL WILL BE INTERVIEWED...
ESPECIALLY THOSE EMPLOYEES HAND-PICKED BY THE 'BOSS' HIMSELF... LIKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.

ME?
IN CASE YOU COULDN'T READ THE POLICE REPORT, Ms. MALPHER...
THAT LITTLE WITCH TRIED TO KILL ME!
I'VE GOT THE REPORT RIGHT HERE. GREAT BATHROOM READING. FULL OF ACTION, EXCITEMENT... MYSTERY...
FOR EXAMPLE, WHY WOULD A LEGIT STATION MANAGER CHOOSE A WOMAN WITH NO EXPERIENCE FOR HIS LATE NIGHT SLOT?
CALL ME CRAZY. BUT I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION WORTH ASKING.
MAYBE HE LIKED THE SOUND OF MY VOICE.
YOU THINK? WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GIVE A LISTEN. I BET YOU HAVE A LOT TO SAY...
SWIFF
Ah! THERE IS SOMETHING MORE TO YOU, ISN'T THERE, BLIND MAN?!
A FIGHTER'S SPIRIT!
OF COURSE I'M A FIGHTER... I'M DAREDEVIL, FOR PETE'S SAKE!
BUT IF I DON'T GET IT TOGETHER, I MAY END UP THROWING IN THE TOWEL PERMANENTLY!

THE EXPERIMENTAL **HALLUCINOGENICS** INTRODUCED TO MURDOCK'S SYSTEM ARE WORKING **BETTER** THAN EXPECTED!
IT'S AS IF HE'S LOST THE **WILL** TO FIGHT BACK! SURELY THE GLADIATOR WILL MAKE **SHORT** WORK OF HIM. **PERFECT.**
"WHAT'S KEEPING HIM FROM **RESISTING?**"
THOUGH I CAN'T HELP BUT **WONDER...** WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT WONDERFUL **MIND** OF HIS...
NOW. THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS!
KLUDD
UNGH!
NO... *I* CAN'T FIGHT... DAD... PLEASE...
HE FALLS? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
YOU SEE, MURDOCK? THE LAW YOU'VE SO **CALLOUSLY** DISREGARDED HAS COME FOR YOU...
ONLY NOW YOU SEE ITS TRUE FACE... IT IS THE LAW OF **SUBJUGATION!** JUSTICE THROUGH FEAR!
USE YOUR **HEAD,** MURDOCK... WHO ARE YOUR ENEMIES... WHAT ARE THEIR **WEAKNESSES?**

YEAH... YOU'RE REALLY ILLUSTRATING YOUR POINT, FEAR...
TRICKING A TWO TON BLACK AND DECKER INTO POUNDING THE TAR OUT OF A BLIND LAWYER POISONED ON FEAR GAS MAKES FOR A BRILLIANT PHILOSOPHICAL MODEL.
GLADIATOR... ADJOURN THE COURT.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! I SAID BREAK HIM!
THIS IS NOT... THIS IS NOT WHAT YOU PROMISED. WHERE IS THE HONOR?
HONOR?! I'M PAYING YOU!
NO, NOT FOR THIS -- MY TRIUMPH MUST BE GLORIOUS...
"THE PATHS OF GLORY LEAD BUT TO THE GRAVE," MY FRIEND...
NEED I REMIND YOU OF THE...QUALITY TIME THAT WE SPENT TOGETHER?
THAT TIME IN THE COLD, SOUND OF NAILS. DARK. SMALL. DO YOU WANT THAT AGAIN?
OF COURSE YOU DON'T... Oh, GLORIOUS WARRIOR.

MURDOCK..?
I CAN'T FIGHT YOU, EVEN IF I WANTED TO. THE GAS... BUT YOU CAN STOP THIS...
...
I... I WILL MAKE THIS QUICK... FOR BOTH OF US.
JUST TO PUT YOUR LAST THOUGHTS AT EASE, COUNSELOR... THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME... NOT THE DEVIL...
YOUR SECRET WILL GO WITH YOU TO THE GRAVE.
THIS IS THE DEATH OF THE LAW, CHILDREN! CONSUMED BY ITS OWN DESIRE TO PUNISH!
THE RULE OF FEAR BEGINS TODAY!
GLADIATOR, I ATTEND TO THE SECOND PHASE OF MY PLAN... BY THE TIME I RETURN, I EXPECT THE FLOOR TO BE AWASH IN BLOOD...
BUT TAKE YOUR TIME, HAVE FUN WITH IT.
AND CHILDREN, IF MY AVATAR HAS A CHANGE OF HEART... IF HIS HONOR GETS THE BETTER OF HIM...
...SMOTHER HIM WITH YOUR CORPSES UNTIL HE CHOKES.
I AM SORRY IT HAS TO END LIKE THIS... I DO NOT KILL FOR THE SAKE OF KILLING... I AM A GLADIATOR.

NO USE TRYING TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT... THE GLADIATOR'S IN FEAR'S THRALL TOO...
DAD... PLEASE...
THE CODE REQUIRES THAT I OFFER YOU A REQUEST.
IF FEAR IS TO HAVE HIS SACRIFICE... IT WILL BE -- IN SOME SMALL WAY AT LEAST -- ON MY TERMS...
NO... NOT MY SON... MATT MURDOCK WILL NEVER HAVE TO FIGHT...
I DON'T -- WILL... WILL YOU PLEASE... COVER MY FACE?
I UNDERSTAND.
RIP
THE FACE, OUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD...
THE MIRROR THROUGH WHICH OTHERS SEE US. IF DEATH COMES FOR YOU THIS DAY --
YOU WISH TO FACE IT ALONE, AWAY FROM THE PRYING EYES OF STRANGERS... I RESPECTFULLY GRANT THIS REQUEST.
BRAINS OVER FISTS...
NOT MY SON...
MATT?
SON, WHERE ARE YOU?
SO WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME AGAIN JUST HOW YOU CAME TO MEET YOUR "BOSS"...
IF YOU WOULD START LISTENING WITH YOUR EARS INSTEAD OF YOUR EGO YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD ME WHEN I SAID --
I NEVER MET THE MAN!
RIGHT... THEN LET'S TALK ABOUT DAREDEVIL, SHALL WE --
Ms. MALPHER! ALL UNITS HAVE JUST BEEN DISPATCHED TO RIKER'S ISLAND! ALL OF THEM!
THERE'S BEEN A RIOT... YOUR MAN Mr. FEAR IS ON-SITE!

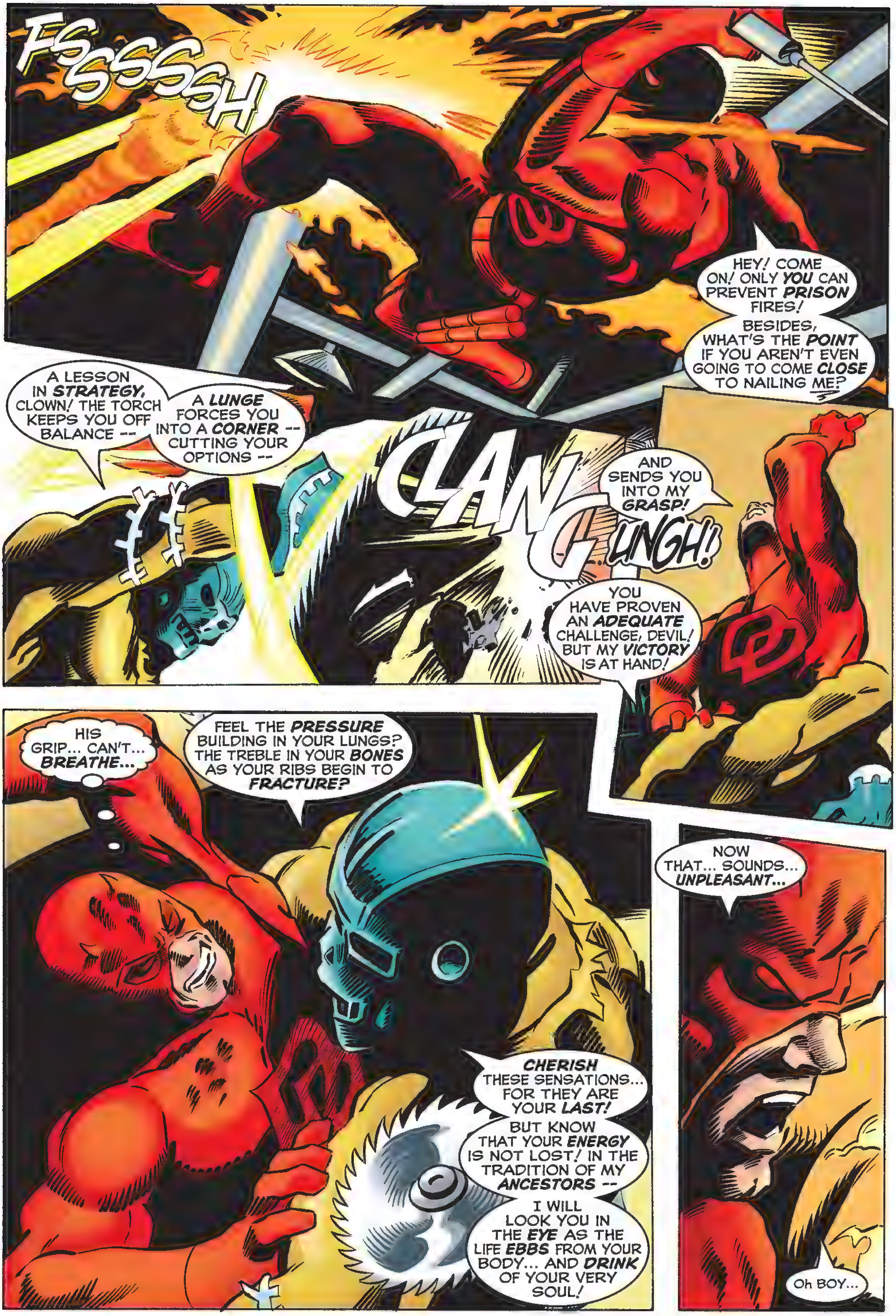
THEN WHY ARE WE STILL *HERE?! I'LL* DRIVE, YOU *RUN* THE SIREN --
Mr. FEAR?! THAT'S WHAT THIS IS AB --
Oh MY GOD... *MATT'S* ON RIKERS...
"MATT MURDOCK *PROMISED* HIS FATHER A LONG TIME AGO THAT HE WOULD *NOT* FIGHT... WOULD *NOT* RAISE HIS FISTS IN ANGER.
"MATT MURDOCK *CANNOT* BREAK THAT PROMISE, ESPECIALLY UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF *FEAR GAS*.
"SO MATT NEEDS TO GO *AWAY*... JUST LIKE HE DID ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
KIZASCH
KTANG
"*ONE* MIND GAME IN EXCHANGE FOR *ANOTHER*.
"COVERING MY FACE, PUTTING ON A *MASK*... IT *RELEASES* ME FROM WHO I AM.
FROM MY *PROMISE*.
"A *MASK* ALLOWS ME TO BE SOMEONE *ELSE*.
"SOMEONE WHO COULD USE HIS *UNNATURAL GIFTS* AND *HEIGHTENED SENSES* NOT JUST *DEFENSIVELY*...
"BUT STRATEGICALLY... *OFFENSIVELY*...
UNBELIEVABLE! HOW COULD HE --?
"AND SOMETIMES... EVEN WITH A LITTLE *MALICE*.
"*MATT MURDOCK* COULD NEVER DEFY HIS FATHER... SO I HAD TO INVENT SOMEONE WHO *COULD*..."

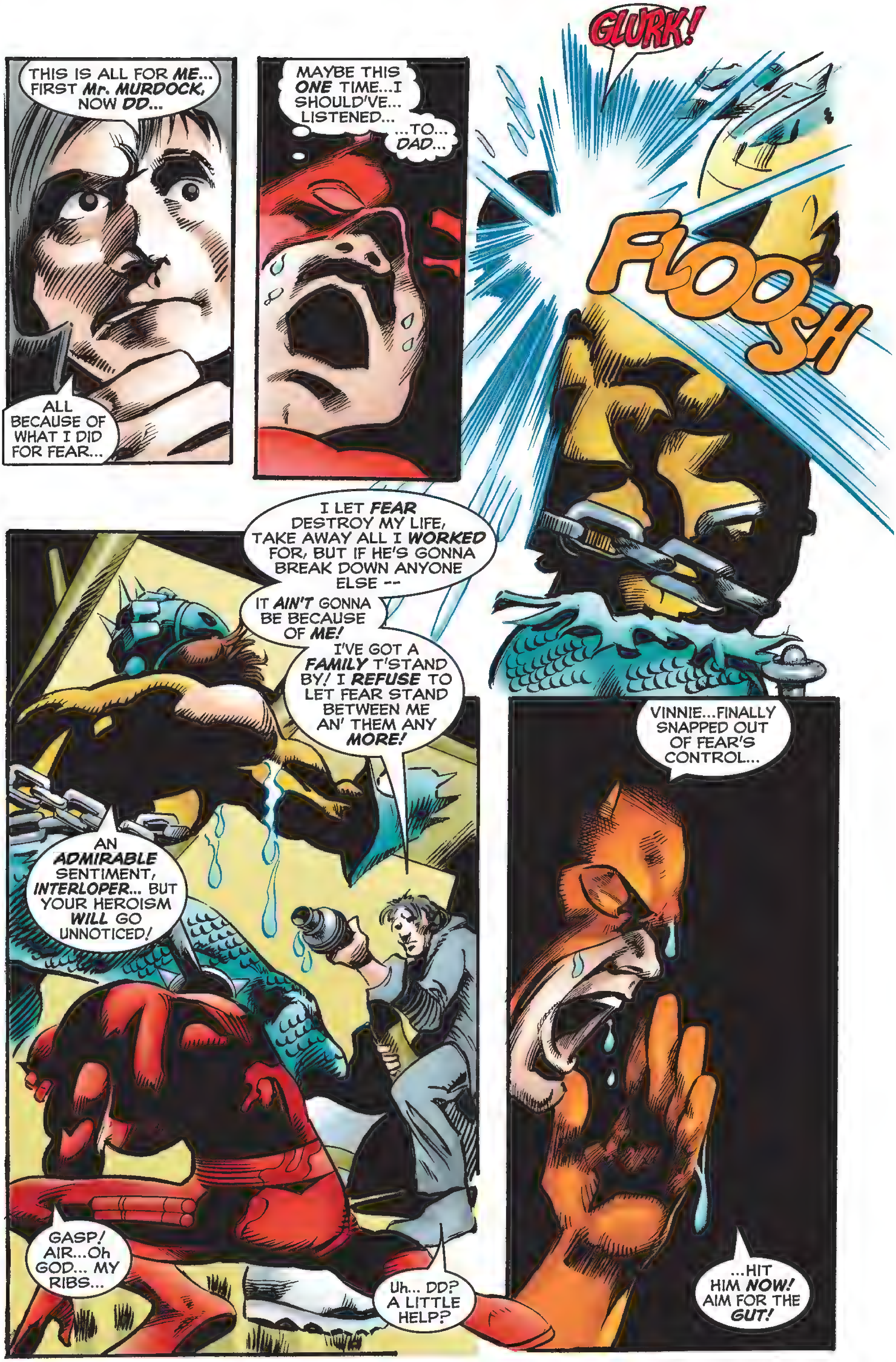
CAN'T SEE! GET SOME LIGHT! I GOT A **MATCH!**
GIVE THAT TO ME!
SO, IT'S **"CAT AND MOUSE"** NOW, IS IT?
YES... AND GUESS WHOSE **TAIL** THE TRAP IS ABOUT TO SPRING ON, **MICKEY...**
THAT **VOICE...** WHO IS THAT? WHO HAS COME TO DEFEND THE LAWYER'S **HONOR?!**
LAWYER'S HONOR? THAT'S SORT OF AN **OXYMORON,** ISN'T IT?
MEOW.
FEAR WANTED TO **BREAK** MATT MURDOCK... BUT MATT'S TAKEN THE REST OF THE DAY **OFF.**
ONE MIND GAME FOR **ANOTHER,** I SUPPOSE, BUT WHATEVER **WORKS.**
ONCE I PUT MYSELF IN THE RIGHT **MIND SET,** ONCE I PULLED ON THE **"MASK,"** FEAR'S SPELL WAS **BROKEN.**
NO MORE MATT, NO MORE **GUILT...** NO MORE **FEAR.**
JUST **ME.**

"...CONTINUE WITH OUR ONGOING REPORT FROM RIKER'S ISLAND. THE CITY'S ELITE CONTINGENCY TEAM --
POLICE
POLICE
"ALERTED BY THE WARDEN JUST AFTER THE RIOT BECAME UNCONTAINABLE, HAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE.
"THOUGH THEY ARE PREPARED TO HANDLE THE DANGEROUS GAS EMANATING FROM THE PRISON...
"...SOURCES CLOSE TO THE MAYOR EXPECT THAT A RESOLUTION TO THIS CONFLICT MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE... WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT BLOODSHED."
KLOK
LEMME GUESS...SAW BLADES... GOOD WITH HIS HANDS... YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM "THIS OLD HOUSE," RIGHT?
YOU HELP Mr. FEAR OUT AROUND THE WOOD-SHOP... FIX A FEW THINGS... MURDER A FEW PEOPLE...I KNOW THE TYPE.

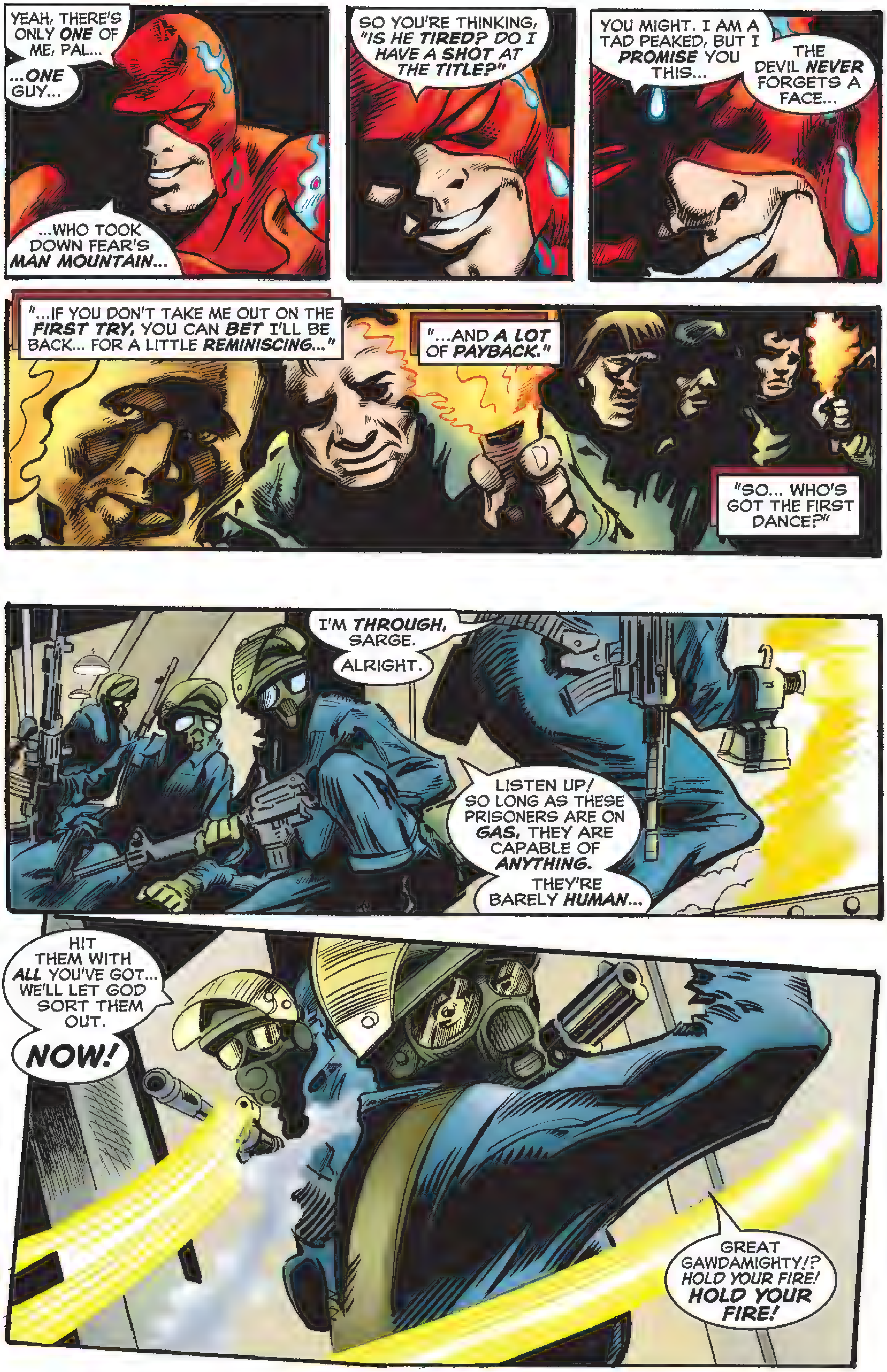
FINALLY, I UNDERSTAND! YOU ARE THE WORTHY OPPONENT THAT VILE GHOUL PROMISED ME!
FWOOSH
YOU MUST BE A WARRIOR BORN IF YOU CAN WITHSTAND THE EFFECTS OF FEAR'S INFERNAL GASSES!
YEAH... SURE. ACTUALLY, MY NATURAL FORTITUDE COMES FROM CLEAN LIVING AND A DAILY MULTI-VITAMIN.
NOT TO MENTION THAT THE STUFF HAS FINALLY STARTED TO DISSIPATE A LITTLE...
YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME! MAYBE SOME FIBER WOULD MELLOW OUT YOUR DISPOSITION --
CHWOK
ARRGH!
THAT LEG SWEEP SHOULD HAVE DROPPED HIM EASY, BUT HE DIDN'T BUDGE! LIKE HIS BODY IS REINFORCED WITH STEEL!
THEY GOT AN ATOMIC-POWERED STAIR MASTER BACK AT THE COLISEUM?
MY BODY WAS FORGED IN THE MAELSTROM OF ILLUSTRIOUS BATTLE!
LEAVING IT AS INDOMITABLE AS MY WILL!
KRUNCH

OKAY, YOU'RE STRONG LIKE OX... I GET THE POINT! ENOUGH WITH THE **BRAGGING** ALREADY!
THIS IS LIKE GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD AGAINST A *TANK!* I NEED AN EDGE!
FINDING THE **FUSE BOX** BY THE HUM OF THE CIRCUITRY WAS A SNAP. LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DIG UP WITH MY RADAR **SENSE** --
MEANWHILE, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO KNOCK THAT **FACE PLATE** LOOSE WITH MY **BILLY CLUB** --
OPEN HAND COMBAT PROVING TOO **MUCH,** DEVIL? THERE IS NO ADVANTAGE TO ENGAGING ME WITH **WEAPONRY...**
BUT ALLOW ME TO **ACCOMMODATE** YOUR CHOICE OF TECHNIQUE, JUST THE **SAME!**
EXPANDING SAW BLADES? WHERE'D YOU GET THOSE BABIES. **SHARPER IMAGE?**
SHARPER IMAGE, GET IT? IT'S A **JOKE,** SON...
I BET THEY CUT RIGHT THROUGH A **TIN CAN** WITHOUT **DULLING,** DON'T THEY?
YOUR **BANTER** BELIES YOUR **FEAR,** DEVIL! **EN GARDE!**


FSSSSSH
HEY! COME ON! ONLY **YOU** CAN PREVENT **PRISON** FIRES!
BESIDES, WHAT'S THE **POINT** IF YOU AREN'T EVEN GOING TO COME **CLOSE** TO NAILING ME?
A LESSON IN **STRATEGY,** CLOWN! THE TORCH KEEPS YOU OFF BALANCE --
A **LUNGE** FORCES YOU INTO A **CORNER** -- CUTTING YOUR OPTIONS --
CLANG
AND SENDS YOU INTO MY **GRASP!**
UNGH!
YOU HAVE PROVEN AN **ADEQUATE** CHALLENGE, DEVIL! BUT MY **VICTORY** IS AT HAND!
HIS GRIP... CAN'T... **BREATHE...**
FEEL THE **PRESSURE** BUILDING IN YOUR LUNGS? THE TREBLE IN YOUR **BONES** AS YOUR RIBS BEGIN TO **FRACTURE?**
CHERISH THESE SENSATIONS... FOR THEY ARE YOUR **LAST!**
BUT KNOW THAT YOUR **ENERGY** IS NOT LOST! IN THE TRADITION OF MY **ANCESTORS** --
I WILL LOOK YOU IN THE **EYE** AS THE LIFE **EBBS** FROM YOUR BODY... AND **DRINK** OF YOUR VERY SOUL!
NOW THAT... SOUNDS... **UNPLEASANT...**
Oh BOY...


THIS IS ALL FOR ME... FIRST Mr. MURDOCK, NOW DD...
ALL BECAUSE OF WHAT I DID FOR FEAR...
MAYBE THIS ONE TIME...I SHOULD'VE... LISTENED...
...TO... DAD...
GLURK!
FLOOSH
I LET FEAR DESTROY MY LIFE, TAKE AWAY ALL I WORKED FOR, BUT IF HE'S GONNA BREAK DOWN ANYONE ELSE --
IT AIN'T GONNA BE BECAUSE OF ME!
I'VE GOT A FAMILY T'STAND BY! I REFUSE TO LET FEAR STAND BETWEEN ME AN' THEM ANY MORE!
AN ADMIRABLE SENTIMENT, INTERLOPER... BUT YOUR HEROISM WILL GO UNNOTICED!
GASP! AIR...Oh GOD... MY RIBS...
Uh... DD? A LITTLE HELP?
VINNIE...FINALLY SNAPPED OUT OF FEAR'S CONTROL...
...HIT HIM NOW! AIM FOR THE GUT!

WITH ANY LUCK, VINNIE CAN **NAIL** THE BIG GUY IN HIS **SOLAR** PLEXUS...
DON'T MISS DON'T MISS DON'T MISS...
FSSHH
AND **FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS** OF **WATER PRESSURE** WILL **GENTLY** DISPLACE THE AIR IN HIS LUNGS.
WHORFF!
THE FORCE OF THE CANNON **ROCKS** HIS BODY, SENDING A **MESSAGE** UP THROUGH MY **LEGS** AS THEY WRAP AROUND A **TREE TRUNK** AND SQUEEZE...
THAT **VINNIE**...HE'S A GOOD SHOT.
THE **MASK** IS **OFF**, GLADIATOR --
YOU'RE NAKED TO THE WORLD... **EXPOSED**...
A FAILURE.
NO... >GAK< NOT... >HURK< FAIR...
THE CODE >GHK< YOU BROKE THE >URK< RULES --
...
THE **DEVIL** DOESN'T PLAY BY **RULES**... HE **INVENTS** HIS OWN.
SWEET DREAMS, **SUNSHINE**.
THUD
NOW, ON TO THE **GLEE CLUB**...
HE...HE DEFIED THE MASTER! THERE'S ONLY ONE OF HIM. LET'S TAKE HIM DOWN...


YEAH, THERE'S ONLY **ONE** OF ME, PAL...
...**ONE** GUY...
...WHO TOOK DOWN FEAR'S **MAN MOUNTAIN**...
SO YOU'RE THINKING, "***IS HE TIRED? DO I HAVE A SHOT AT THE TITLE?***"
YOU MIGHT. I AM A TAD PEAKED, BUT I **PROMISE** YOU THIS...
THE DEVIL **NEVER** FORGETS A FACE...
"...IF YOU DON'T TAKE ME OUT ON THE ***FIRST TRY,*** YOU CAN **BET** I'LL BE BACK... FOR A LITTLE ***REMINISCING...***"
"...AND ***A LOT*** OF ***PAYBACK.***"
"SO... WHO'S GOT THE FIRST DANCE?"
I'M ***THROUGH,*** SARGE.
ALRIGHT.
LISTEN UP! SO LONG AS THESE PRISONERS ARE ON ***GAS,*** THEY ARE CAPABLE OF ***ANYTHING.***
THEY'RE BARELY ***HUMAN...***
HIT THEM WITH ***ALL*** YOU'VE GOT... WE'LL LET GOD SORT THEM OUT.
NOW!
GREAT GAWDAMIGHTY!? *HOLD YOUR FIRE!* ***HOLD YOUR FIRE!***

HIS **EYES...**
DEVIL... DON'T WANT TO SEE THE **DEVIL...**
HE'S GONNA **GET** ME... PAYBACK...
STOP **LOOKING** AT ME, MAN... STOP...
AUTHORITIES ARE BAFFLED BY THE UTTERLY **NON-CONFRONTATIONAL** CONCLUSION TO THE **CRISIS** AT RIKER'S ISLAND...
IN ADDITION TO THE **DOCILE** INMATES, AUTHORITIES ARRESTED A COSTUMED **GIANT** IDENTIFIED AS THE GLADIATOR **WITHOUT** INCIDENT.
DESPITE HIS **OBVIOUS** STRENGTH, HE DID NOT **RESIST** ARREST.
HE WAS **UNAVAILABLE** FOR COMMENT, DUE TO A PARTIALLY CRUSHED **WINDPIPE...**
FILE 656 MR. FEAR
THE **MASTERMIND** OF THE RIOT, Mr. FEAR, ESCAPED THE SCENE **UNDETECTED.**
HE IS **STILL** CONSIDERED A **SERIOUS MENACE** TO THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS.
VINCENT GRAZIA, TWO-TIME LOSER WHO HAD **CONFESSED** TO THE ROBBERY OF OSBORN CHEMICALS LAST WEEK, CAME FORWARD TO **RECANT** HIS STATEMENT...
Mr. GRAZIA'S ADMISSION THAT HE WAS **COERCED** BY FEAR IS VALUED TESTIMONY FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT...
...AS MOST OF FEAR'S VICTIMS ARE TOO **TERRIFIED** OF HIM TO EVER MAKE A **STATEMENT.**

GRAZIA ATTRIBUTED HIS **CHANGE** OF HEART TO THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR HIMSELF, **DAREDEVIL** --
THE COSTUMED HERO WHO **SUBDUED** THE GLADIATOR AND **FOILED** Mr. FEAR'S PLANS THIS AFTERNOON.
DAREDEVIL HIMSELF WAS **NOT** AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT, **RUSHING** FROM THE SCENE ON A **GRAPPLING LINE** OF SOME SORT.
CLEARLY, HE WAS OFF TO LOOK FOR **Mr. FEAR.**
SURPRISINGLY, THERE WERE VERY **FEW** INJURIES REPORTED, **ZERO CASUALTIES,** AND ACCORDING TO CITY OFFICIALS...
ALL OF THE INMATES ARE **ACCOUNTED** FOR, SAFELY TUCKED AWAY INSIDE OF THEIR **CELLS.**
WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE UTTER **FAILURE** OF TODAY'S ATTACK, ONE **MUST** ASK THE QUESTION...
...WHAT DID FEAR HOPE TO **GAIN** BY STAGING THE RIOT AT RIKERS? WAS IT SIMPLY A PLOT TO TRAP DAREDEVIL?
OR DID HE HAVE... MORE **INSIDIOUS** DESIGNS?
IT SEEMS THAT FOR THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION, A CITY WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO **WAIT...**
AND **PRAY** THAT ONE NEVER **COMES.**
NEXT ISSUE! OMEGA RED!

MARVEL COMICS
DARE-DEVIL
'97
DEAD-POOL
ANNUAL
KELLY
CHANG
HOLDREDGE
HOLD

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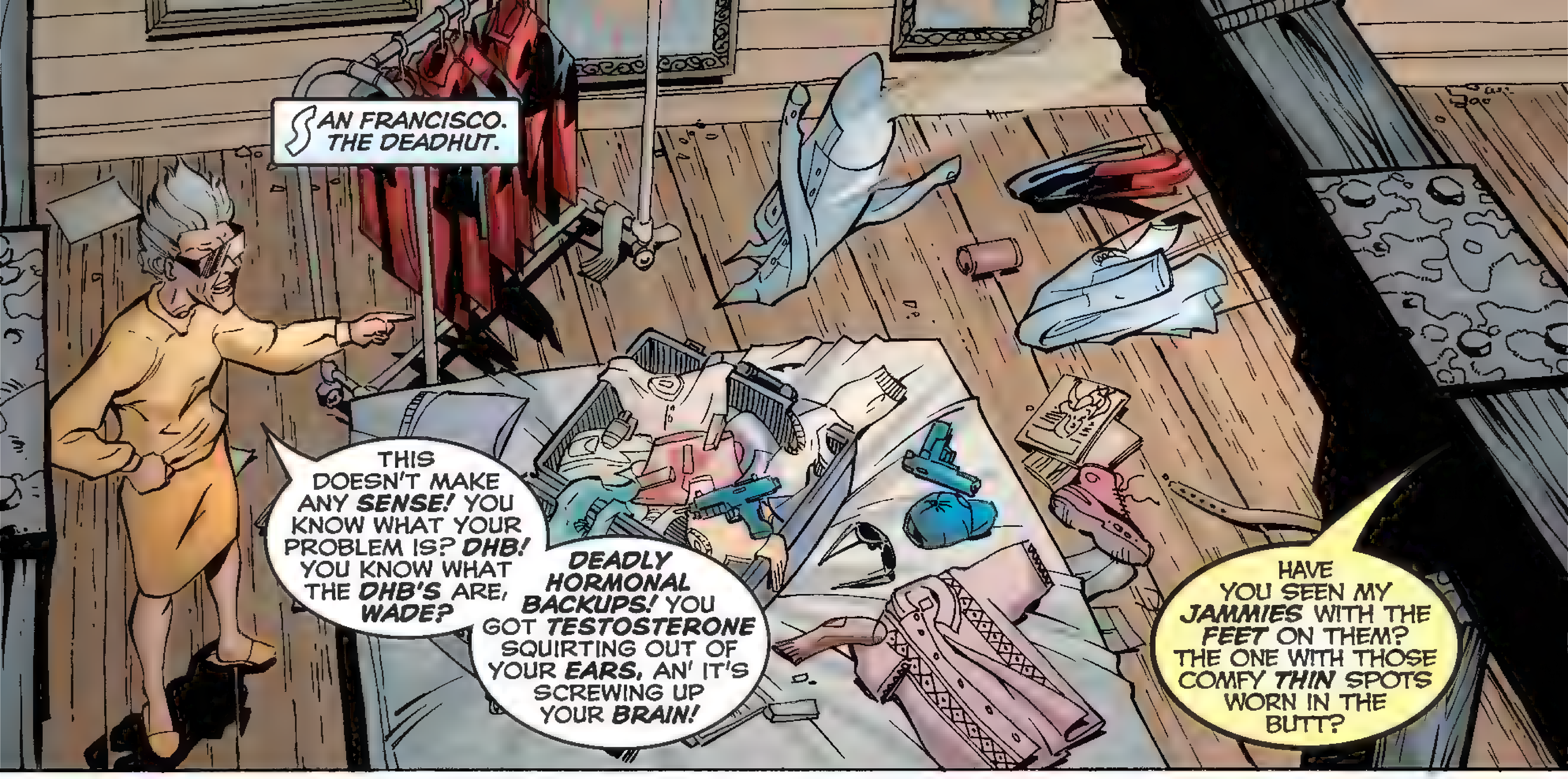
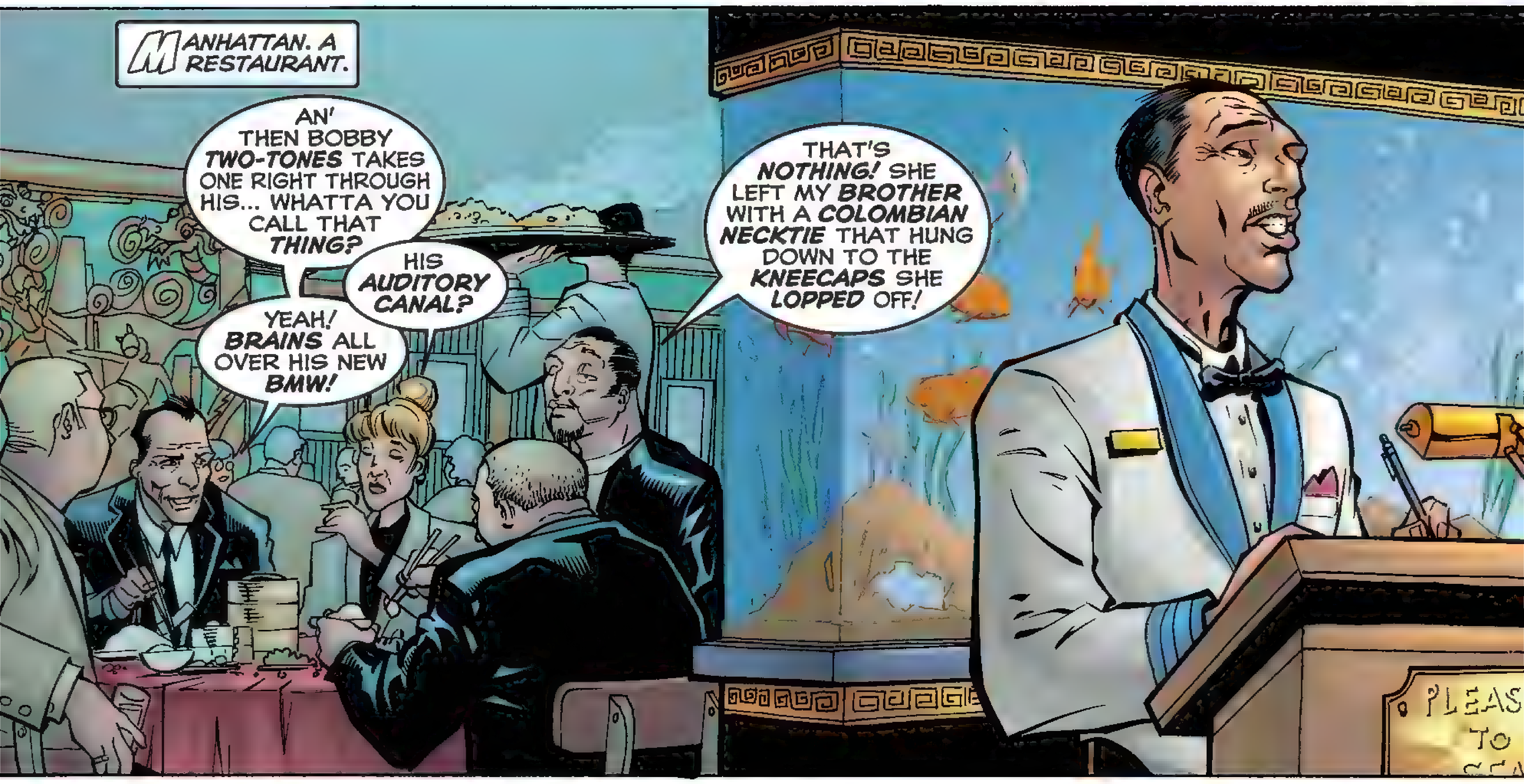
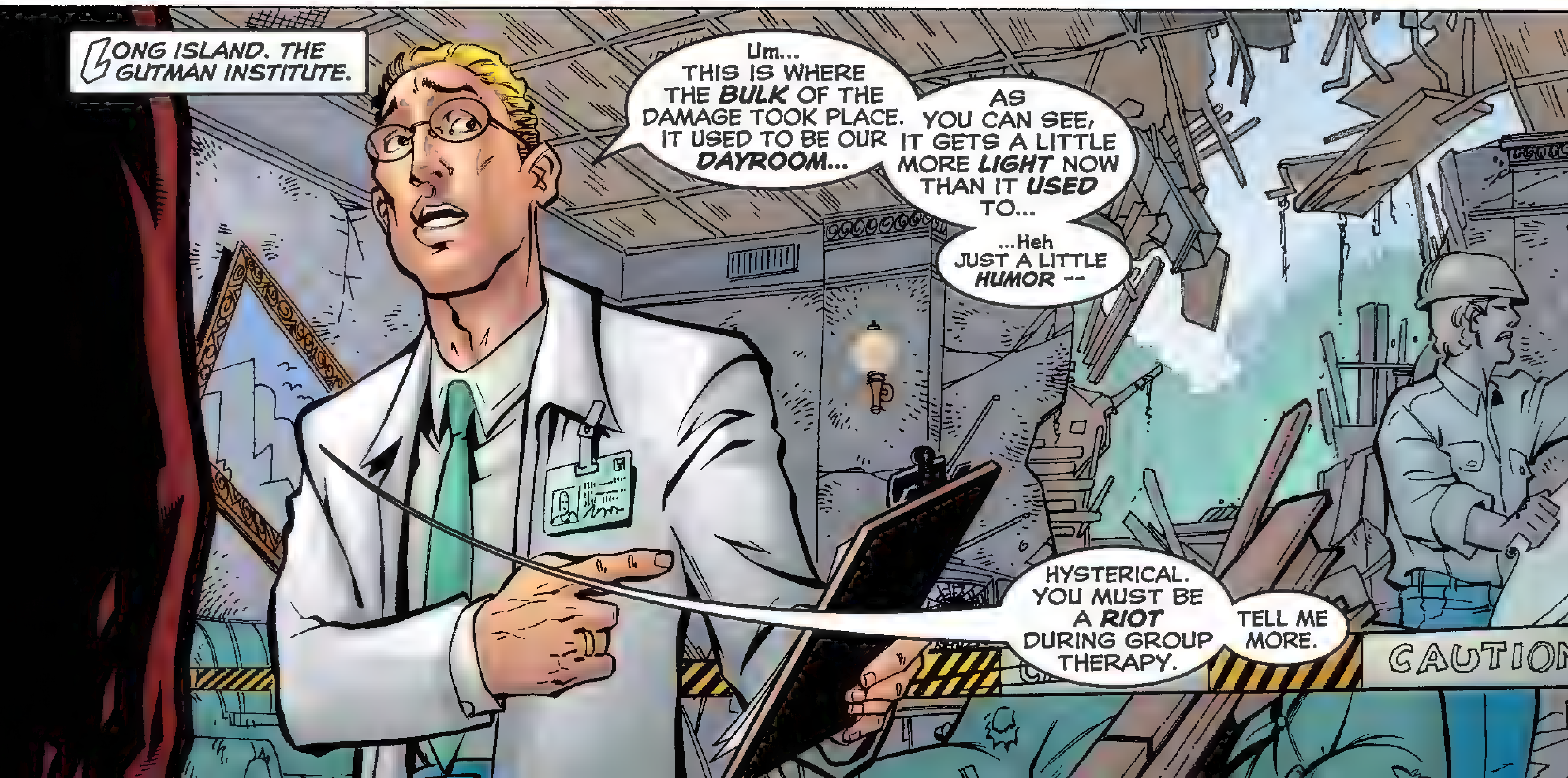

SAN FRANCISCO. THE DEADHUT.
THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY **SENSE!** YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS? **DHB!** YOU KNOW WHAT THE **DHB'S** ARE, **WADE?**
DEADLY HORMONAL BACKUPS! YOU GOT **TESTOSTERONE** SQUIRTING OUT OF YOUR **EARS,** AN' IT'S SCREWING UP YOUR **BRAIN!**
HAVE YOU SEEN MY **JAMMIES** WITH THE **FEET** ON THEM? THE ONE WITH THOSE COMFY **THIN** SPOTS WORN IN THE BUTT?


MANHATTAN. A RESTAURANT.
AN' THEN BOBBY **TWO-TONES** TAKES ONE RIGHT THROUGH HIS... WHATTA YOU CALL THAT **THING?**
HIS **AUDITORY CANAL?**
YEAH! **BRAINS** ALL OVER HIS NEW **BMW!**
THAT'S **NOTHING!** SHE LEFT MY **BROTHER** WITH A **COLOMBIAN NECKTIE** THAT HUNG DOWN TO THE **KNEECAPS** SHE **LOPPED** OFF!
PLEAS
TO


LONG ISLAND. THE GUTMAN INSTITUTE.
Um... THIS IS WHERE THE **BULK** OF THE DAMAGE TOOK PLACE. IT USED TO BE OUR **DAYROOM...**
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT GETS A LITTLE MORE **LIGHT** NOW THAN IT **USED** TO...
...Heh JUST A LITTLE **HUMOR** --
HYSTERICAL. YOU MUST BE A **RIOT** DURING GROUP THERAPY.
TELL ME MORE.
CAUTION

YOU ARE NOT LISTENING!
I HEARD YA FINE, AL! BAD GUY MEETS WORSE GIRL, RUNS OFF ON SOME FOOL MISSION...
...LEADS TO MULTIPLE LACERATIONS AND SEVERE CRAMPING IN THE NETHER REGIONS. BAD BAD BAD.
NOW MIX YOURSELF UP AN ENSURE AND GO WATCH MATLOCK. I'M TRYIN' TO PACK HERE...
IF YOU KNOW THAT SHE'S TROUBLE, WHY ARE YOU GOING?
FIRST, I GOTTA PROTECT MY INVESTMENT. THE CRAZY BROAD STILL OWES ME A BUNDLE, AND I AIM TO COLLECT.
SECOND, THE CHOICE BETWEEN A DANGEROUS LIAISON IN THE BIG APPLE...
...OR SITTING AROUND THIS DUMP WATCHING YOU GROW LIVER SPOTS IS A NO-BRAINER, DON'T YOU THINK?
YOU GOTTA ADMIT THAT THERE IS SORT OF... AN ART TO THE WAY SHE CAN DISEMBOWEL A GUY BEFORE HE HITS THE GROUND.
'S A THING OF BEAUTY, REALLY.
I BET THIS OLD BURG GETS A LOT MORE INTERESTING NOW THAT SHE'S BACK IN TOWN. GLAD I'M NOT ON HER LIST.
HEH. YEAH... 'COURSE WITH A WHACKED OUT ARTISTE LIKE THAT RUNNING 'ROUND, WHO KNOWS...
...ANY ONE OF US COULD BE HER NEXT MASTERPIECE, RIGHT? HAH-HA!
HER SESSIONS WERE SO PROMISING... Dr. KATZ SEEMED TO HAVE WRAPPED UP AT LEAST TWO OF HER PERSONALITIES...
...BUT I THINK HE LEFT THE WRONG ONE INTACT.
YOU HAVE A GIFT FOR UNDERSTATEMENT, DOC.
GASP
THERE COULD BE NOTHING MORE WRONG THAN THIS "PERSONALITY"...
THE DEVIL! HE'S HERE!

THE MORE YOU MAKE JOKES, THE MORE I KNOW YOU'RE COVERING SOMETHING UP.
SMEK
YOU'RE SO CUTE WHEN YOU'RE JEALOUS, AL. IT'S JUST BUSINESS.
YEAH, AND I'M LOLA FALANA.
HAVE A CRAPPY TRIP, IDIOT.
AND SCORE ME A GOOD PRESENT, OR DON'T COME BACK!
WILL DO! OH, BY THE WAY...
...I HID ALL YOUR MEDICATION, JUST SO YOU'D HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WHILE I'M GONE. TOODLES!
G-GET ME THE ERASER! TOP PRIORITY!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T FIND BULLSEYE?! GET MY ROLODEX!
NO, LOOK UNDER H! H FOR HITMEN, NOT ASSASSINS, YOU PUTZ!
YOU'RE HERE FOR ME... AREN'T YOU? I'VE HAD DREAMS...
...YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO HELL WITH YOU.
NO. HELL'S NO PLACE FOR AN ANGEL LIKE YOU. YOU CAN STOP WORRYING.
I'M HERE FOR SOMEONE ELSE... SOMEONE WHO BELONGS THERE.

CHAPTER 1

> "In Revenge and In Love,
> Woman is more
> Barbarous than Man."
>
> Friedrich Nietzche

I TAKE THE *CITY* INTO ME. *ALL* OF IT.
EVERY *SMELL* SPUTTERING UPWARDS FROM *FESTERING* ALLEYS...
...EVERY FUGITIVE VIBRATION RICOCHETING AROUND THE GLASS AND STEEL CANYON...
I LET IT ALL *SLAP* ME IN THE FACE AS I *PLUMMET* SEVENTY STORIES, TRYING TO FILL MY *HEAD* WITH ADRENALINE AND *BLOODRUSH*...
...HOPING TO *OVERWHELM* MY *HYPER-SENSES*... *CLOG* MY MIND...
...OBLITERATE THE IMAGE OF *HER FACE*, THE MEMORY OF HER *LIPS*.
THE *TASTE* OF --
IT'S NOT *ENOUGH*.

THE FLOODGATES OPEN.
TYPHOID MARY HAS RETURNED... AS ALL ***PLAGUES*** DO.
LIKE THE ***SIRENS*** OF "THE ODYSSEY," WHO COULD DRIVE A MAN ***INSANE*** WITH A FEW NOTES OF THEIR ***SONG...***
...***TYPHOID*** CAN ***CAPTIVATE*** WITH A GLANCE, A TOSS OF HER HEAD. SHE TOOK ***ME*** OVER THE EDGE... AND I ***FELL. HARD.***
WHAT I DID... ***WITH*** HER... THEN LATER, TO ***DEFEAT*** HER... MY ***PRIDE*** WON'T ALLOW ME TO FULLY ***RECOLLECT.***
BUT THAT WAS ***LONG*** AGO. I'M ***BETTER*** NOW. ***STRONGER.***
THIS TIME, I WON'T BE ***DRAGGED*** DOWN INTO HER ***SICKNESS...*** I ***WON'T.***
DOCTOR KATZ KEEPS HIS OFFICE HERE IN ***MIDTOWN.*** PERHAPS HIS ***PRIVATE*** NOTES WILL REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT --
THE ***SMELLS*** HIT ME BEFORE MY ***RADAR SENSE*** EVEN REGISTERS WHAT'S ***HAPPENED*** IN THE NEXT ROOM...
...THE SCENT OF ***OLD BLOOD*** IS VERY ***PARTICULAR.***
AIR CURRENTS ***WHISTLE*** THROUGH ***UNNATURAL*** CAVITIES IN THE ***CORPSES.*** TYPHOID TOOK HER ***TIME*** WITH THE DOCTOR...
POST-MORTEM ***STAGING.*** ROPE FROM ***OFF-SITE,*** INDICATIONS THAT TYPHOID HAD THOUGHT THIS THROUGH ***AHEAD*** OF TIME...
SHE'S LIVING OUT A ***FANTASY.***
IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD... I HEAR THE SIRENS ***WARMING UP*** FOR THEIR BIG ***NUMBER.***

START SPREADING THE NEWWWWS... YOU'RE DYING TODAYYYY... BE-CAUSE YOU TRIED TO RIP ME OFF, IN OLD... NEW YORRRKK! ♪
YOU'RE GONNA WAKE UP! WITH A HEADACHE THAT DOESN'T CEASE! ♪
AND FIND YOUR NECK IN A BRACE, LEGS IN A CAST, SPLEEN IN A DISH... ♪
EVERYBODY, BIG FINISH --!
♪ ♪ ...GASP-PING FOR BREEAAAATH! ♪
Uh... DEADPOOL? I ENJOY A GOOD BUSKING AND ALL, BUT THIS LITTLE REVUE IS GONNA GET US PINCHED.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU DON'T GET CHICKS, WEASEL... YOU NEVER TAKE TIME TO ENJOY THE MOMENT.
ALRIGHT, SO ENOUGH WITH THE HARMONIZING... WHERE WAS I? OH! ABOUT TO BEAT YOU SENSELESS FOR TRYING TO GOUGE THE FARE ON ME AN' MY PAL...
DUDE, IT'S MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB... I WAS LOST... Oh GOD, ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
CAFE
THAT'S THE FIFTY DOLLAR QUESTION, ISN'T IT, LATKA?
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE LET YOUR FELLOW NEWYORCANS DECIDE! SINCE THEY'RE ALL SOOO CONCERNED...

WELL, LADIES AND JERKS OF THE JURY?
Um... I DON'T KNOW... DID HE REALLY DO IT?
EXCELLENT QUESTIONING, PERRY MASON! ANSWER THE MAN HONESTLY, JEEVES ---
AND PLEASE, SPEAK CLEARLY INTO THE MICROPHONE...
ALRIGHT! I ADMIT IT! IT'S TRUE!
I WAS RUNNING UP THE PRICE 'CAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE TWO DUMB HICKS FROM WISCONSIN!
NOT EVERYONE'S FROM NEW YORK.
BOO!
BOO!
STRING HIM UP!
RUN HIM OVER WITH HIS OWN CAB!
DO HIM!
GET MEDIEVAL ON HIS BUTTOCKS!
I'M FROM WISCONSIN. WE MAKE CHEESE.
AND NOW... MOB JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED ON THE PROMENADE DECK.
⊰SIGH⊱ SERVE IT QUICK, WADE, I HEAR SIRENS...
PLEEEASE...
THE SWEET KISS OF VENGEANCE IN THE HANDS OF THE PROLETARIAT AT LAST...
...NOOGIE!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE! RIGHT ON. DIG IT.

REPORTS PUT A RED CLAD SOLDIER OF SOME SORT AT THE SCENE ---
-- WHO LEFT THE DRIVER WITH A... IS THIS RIGHT? A WEDGIE --
CLICK
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT, JUDGE...
...I COULD NEVER LIVE IN A PLACE SO AFFLICTED WITH VIOLENCE.
SO MUCH FUN... I'D SIMPLY GO MAD WITH ALL THE POSSIBILITIES.
GLLCHH
WHAT'S THAT, SWEETIE? "BUT THERE ARE HEROES, PROTECTORS," YOU SAY? PERHAPS...
...BUT YOUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT SORT OF DISPROVES THAT ARGUMENT, DOESN'T IT, BABY?
NOTHING CAN PROTECT US FROM DESTINY... WE'RE ON A COLLISION COURSE... ALL OF US...
GLLCHH
ANGELS AND DEVILS ALIKE... WHICH ONE ARE YOU?
N-N-NO!
SKLITCH
DEADPOOL, MEET DAREDEVIL...
DAREDEVIL... DIE.

THE NEXT DAY...
...AT THE SMALL BUT PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRM OF SHARPE, NELSON & MURDOCK...
YO! A LITTLE HELP HERE! ANYONE HERE KNOW A @#$%&* MOOK NAMED FOGGY NELSON?
...WHERE DIGNITY, DECORUM AND DEPORTMENT ARE THE WATCHWORDS OF EXCELLENCE...
SIR! YOU ARE TRESPASSING WHERE YOU DO NOT BELONG! I TOLD YOU --!
AN' I BLEW YOU OFF, SHORTROUND. I GOTTA DELIVER THESE 'LOONS IN PERSON, COMPRENDES?
NELSON?! C'MON! THESE THINGS AIN'T GETTING ANY LIGHTER!
WHO IS ABOUT TO FIND THEMSELVES ON UNEMPLOYMENT?!
GADZOOKS! DID IT JUST DROP FIFTEEN DEGREES IN HERE?!
WOMAN'S SO FRIGID NO WONDER SHE'S GOT AN ESKIMO FOR A SECRETARY.
AND WHAT... EXACTLY... ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
CALL ME CRAZY, TOOTS, BUT I THINK THAT THE DIRIGIBLES AN' THE SNAZZY GET-UP OUGHTA GIVE IT AWAY.
"TOOTS?" SUNNY -- ESCORT THIS MISCREANT FROM MY SIGHT --
-- AND DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T REPRODUCE. EVER.
RIGHT AWAY, Ms. SHARPE. COME ALONG NOW, LITTLE MAN.
YOU AGAIN, NANOOK? YOU GOT BLUBBER IN YOUR EARS?
WHURRK!
THUDD
I TOLD YA TO KEEP YER MITTS OFFA ME!

LOOK, SWEETCHEEKS... I GET SIX FIFTY AN HOUR TO SLING THIS INFLATABLE JOY. IT'S ALL I GOT, AN' I AIM T'KEEP THIS GIG --
NOW, YOU GONNA STOP BREAKIN' MY BALLOONS AND TELL ME WHERE NELSON IS, OR DO I HAVE TO GET ROUGH?
FOR A DELIVERY BOY, YOU'RE AWFULLY TENACIOUS.
THANKS. I'M UP FER A PROMOTION.
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHAT'S ALL THE YELLING ABOUT, ROSALIND --?
SUNNY?! YOU OKAY --?
GRRRR
FRANKLIN, CALL THE POLICE!
AH-HA! THE FOGSTER HIMSELF, I PRESUME! SUPER! HERE'S YOUR MESSAGE...
"ROSES ARE RED, WINDOWS ARE GLASS, TAKE ME TO DAREDEVIL OR I'LL GUT YOUR FAT --"
DAREDEVIL?! WHO ARE YOU? GET OUT OF HERE! DEUCE!
GRRRROWRR
CUTE POOCH. HE DO TRICKS?
SIT!
WHINE

I'D HOPED TO SLIP INTO THE OFFICE AND LOOK UP THE NAME OF THAT JUDGE WHO PUT TYPHOID AWAY.
BASED ON THE YELLING AND SOUNDS OF A SCUFFLE I HEARD AS I CAME UP THE ELEVATOR...
...I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE ANYTHING BUT A QUICK VISIT.
I'M PICKING UP FAINT TRACES OF GUN OIL... PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES... LATEX?
ARE THOSE BALLOONS?
Oh, NO...
DEADPOOL! WHAT IS THAT DIRTY MERCENARY DOING -- HE'S GOT FOGGY!
LET'S GO PORK-BOY. I GOT A HANKERIN' TO CHAT WITH THE REDMAN, AND YOU'RE MY TICKET IN!
FOGGY? WHAT'S GOING --
WATCH WHERE I'M GOING, POINDEXTER! PROFESSIONAL KIDNAPPING IN PROGRESS!
HAVE TO PLAY UP THE HELPLESS BLIND LAWYER ACT UNTIL I CAN SLIP AWAY AND CHANGE. BETTER LET THEM GET TO THE ELEVATOR --
M-MATT?
I SENSE A SLIGHT MAGNETIC DISTORTION AROUND HIS BODY... HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTOR.
IN THE WORDS OF THE IMMORTAL SNAGGLEPUSS...

KKSSHHHHH
EXIT, STAGE RIGHT!
FRANKLIN! NO!
FOGGY!
MY GOD! DEADPOOL'S COMPLETELY INSANE!
I CAN'T SEE THEM! WHERE'S MY SON?!
I SEE NOTHING BELOW BUT THE BOTTOM, Ms. SHARPE.
WIND'S WHISTLING AGAINST SOMETHING... A CORD?
THE ROOF!
HUFF GEEZ, NELSON! YOU EVER HEARD OF A GYM? TRY LIFTING SOMETHING BESIDES A SWEET ROLL EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE!
NONE OF THOSE LAWYERS ON L.A. LAW WERE PACKIN' AS MUCH BLOATUS CORPUS AS YOU! EVEN THAT ARNIE GUY...
OH, GOD! OH, GOD!
I MEAN, WE'D PICK ON BENNIE, BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE VERY P.C. OF US...
DON'T DROP ME!
AHHHH, QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING AND ENJOY THE VIEW, SISSY BOY. I'M NOT GOING TO DROP YOU! NOW, LISTEN UP...

"COME WITH ME TO NEW YORK," HE SAYS... "WE'LL DO SOME SHOPPING, CATCH A MATINEE OF 'CATS'," HE SAYS...
AND WHAT HAPPENS? WE SPEND THE MORNING LAYING SIEGE TO DAREDEVIL'S LOSER PAL.
NOT THAT I'D EVER COMPLAIN TO WADE'S FACE, BUT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MORE SUBTLE WAYS TO GET THE MAN'S ATTENTION...
OF COURSE, TACT ISN'T ONE OF DEADPOOL'S STRONG POINTS --
⋟AHEM⋞
UPSIE-DAISY, BINKY! ⋟UNGH⋞ NOW REMEMBER THE ⋟OOF⋞ PLAN! LOOK ALL HELPLESS AND WHEN HORNHEAD COMES, I'LL DO THE REST.
WEAZ! HOW 'BOUT A HAND? I GOT A CRAMP IN MY GNEKTAKAZOINK FROM HAULING "TINY" UP TWENTY STORIES --
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE KUNG-FU GRIP? YOU BEEN --
WORKING
OUT?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
HELLO, DD... SO ⋟HEH-HEH⋞ AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO FEELS AWKWARD OR WHAT?
LONG TIME NO SEE, DEADPOOL. WISH IT HAD BEEN LONGER.
YEAH... ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE SAID "LONG TIME NO SMELL..." BUT THAT'S JUST MY CHARMING, SOPHOMORIC WAY.

I HAVE NO TIME TO *WASTE* ON YOU, *DEADPOOL*, SO GIVE ME A *REASON* NOT TO MAKE IT *EASY* AND LET GO.
I'LL GIVE YOU *TWO*. *FIRST*, IT WOULD RUIN YOUR *HONORABLE* STANDING IN THE *GIRL SCOUTS*...
...THE *SECOND* STARTS WITH *"TYPHOID,"* ENDS IN *"MARY"* AND WAS DECLARED A *LOONEY-TUNE* BY THE SURGEON GENERAL.
TYPHOID.
OKAY, *CARPOOL*. SPIT IT OUT OR I THROW YOU *BACK*.
CARPOOL, *GEE*, NEVER HEARD *THAT* ONE BEFORE. OKAY, HERE'S THE GIG...
...MARY AND I HAVE RECENTLY BECOME... UH... *FRIENDS* FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD...
BOO.
STOP IT.
SHE TOLD ME DURING A *TENDER* MOMENT IN A *FIRE-FIGHT* THAT SHE WANTED TO *MURDERIZE YOUR HIGHNESS* FOR DOING HER *WRONG*...
...AND TAKE OUT *ANYONE* WHO EVER LOOKED IN YOUR GENERAL *DIRECTION*, JUST FOR FUN.
EVEN *I* KNOW THAT'S PRETTY *AMBITIOUS* FOR *SOMEONE* IN HER... *MENTAL* CONDITION, SO I CAME TO PUT THE *KIBOSH* ON THE FIELD TRIP.
SHE'S A SICK *PUPPY*, DD. I THINK YOU *KNOW* THAT OR YOU WOULDN'T HAVE PUT HER *AWAY* IN THE *FIRST* PLACE...
I JUST WANT TO *SEE* THAT SHE GETS THE HELP SHE *NEEDS*, Y'KNOW?
I'D BET MY *BILLY CLUB* HE'S ONE OF THE *UNIDENTIFIED PERPS* WHO BROKE TYPHOID OUT IN THE FIRST PLACE...
...BUT HE'S *ACTUALLY* TELLING THE *TRUTH! NO DEVIATION* IN HIS *HEARTBEAT* AT ALL!
OKAY, LET'S SAY I *BUY* THIS YARN... WHY KIDNAP *FOGGY?*
YOU'RE NOT LISTED UNDER *FASHION-IMPAIRED-DO-GOODERS*, AND THE LIGHT'S *OUT* ON THE *DEVIL SIGNAL*...
...FIGURED YOU'D WANT IN TO HELP OUT YOUR OLD *FRIEND*.
CLUNK

FRIEND?
TYPHOID MARY IS NO ONE'S FRIEND.
THE WOMAN IS A PLAGUE. SHE IS ALL THAT IS CHAOTIC AND HURTFUL IN HUMAN NATURE.
WITHOUT HER OTHER PERSONALITIES TO KEEP HER IN CHECK, SHE WILL BREAK YOU, BURN YOU, AND DANCE ON YOUR ASHES.
YEAH... AIN'T SHE DREAMY?
THIS IS NOT A JOKING MATTER! SHE IS NOT YOUR FRIEND, SHE'S A MONSTER!
MAYBE... BUT WE MONSTERS TEND TO STICK TOGETHER. WE FREAKS HAVE TO HUDDLE UP AGAINST THE WORLD THAT MADE US...
...THE WORLD YOU SO HAPPILY CALL HOME. MARY WASN'T BORN LIKE THIS; SHE WAS MANUFACTURED. SHE'S SOMEONE'S FAULT.
YOU MIGHT WANNA REMEMBER THAT WHILE YOU'RE HUNTING HER, HERO...
...JUST SO'S YOU DON'T PUT HER DOWN... ACCIDENTAL LIKE.
'CAUSE IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE CLIMBED WAY UNDER YOUR SKIN, DD... DEEP.
DON'T PRESUME TO LECTURE ME ON MORALITY, MERC.
I WILL SEE TYPHOID BACK IN THE HANDS OF PROFESSIONALS. NO MORE, NO LESS. YOU WANT TO RUN BACK-UP, FINE.
BUT WHEN WE CATCH UP WITH TYPHOID... NON-INTERFERENCE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.
OH, THIS IS GONNA BE A BARREL OF LAUGHS.
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT SENSE OF HUMOR YOU SUPPOSEDLY DISCOVERED...?

Uh... DD? EXCUSE ME...
›SIGH‹ AND THAT'S IT. NO "THANK YOU FOR BEING THERE WITH A ROPE..." NO, "HEY, GREAT ENGINEERING OF THAT WINCH, PAL..."
...JUST BLAH BLAH BAROQUE POSTURING ABOUT THE NATURE OF INSANITY BLAH BLAH... SHEESH.
YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT IRON, T.J. HOOKER?
OF COURSE I DO! ONE MOVE AND I --
THE SAFETY'S ON. IT'S ABOUT AS DANGEROUS AS A PAPER-WEIGHT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SO YOU'RE DAREDEVIL'S PAL, Huh? I'M WEASEL, DEADPOOL'S WHIPPING BOY.
MY MOTHER AND THE PRESS REALLY STARTED THAT WHOLE "PAL" THING. I... Oh POOP.
I'M FOGGY NELSON. I'M DAREDEVIL'S --
-- Aw, I'M JUST FOGGY.
WELL, "JUST FOGGY"... SINCE YOU'RE NOT GONNA BLOW MY BRAINS OUT IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE, WANNA GO GET A SLICE WHILE WE WAIT FOR THE BOYS?
SURE, WHY NOT?
GREAT! THEY HAVE A HOOTERS IN NEW YORK?

LATER, AN EXCLUSIVE HIGH-RISE ON CENTRAL PARK EAST...
ARE WE THERE, YET?
WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME THAT?
'CAUSE I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY "NOT YET MY LITTLE SMURF..." DON'T YOU EVER WATCH THE CARTOON NETWORK?
QUIET. LISTEN UP. THE JUDGE WHO PUT TYPHOID AWAY LIVES HERE. I THINK SHE'S GOING TO --
ⵆSIGHⵆ IF ONLY IT WAS THE EARS INSTEAD OF THE EYES...
FWAT
AND HE STICKS THE DISMOUNT IN SPITE OF THE TWISTED ANKLE! BELA RUSHES OVER FOR A BEAR HUG...
NICE DIGS! GUESS JUSTICE DOES PAY! MAYBE I SHOULD TRADE IN MY MAGNUM FOR A GAVEL...
...OF COURSE, I'M NOT HARDLY CROOKED ENOUGH...
BUT YOU'RE ABOUT AS STEALTHY AS A FREIGHT TRAIN. PEOPLE ACTUALLY HIRE YOU TO SNEAK INTO PLACES?
WHEN THEY BUY ME, THEY'RE BUYING STYLE, BABE...
I'LL START AT THE GROUND FLOOR. YOU TAKE THE ROOF. MOVE SLOWLY. DON'T TAKE CHANCES. IF YOU SEE TYPHOID, SCREAM.
OKAY, DADDY... AFTER THIS CAN WE GO TO CENTRAL PARK AND WATCH THE BUMS SCARE TOURISTS? HUH? CAN WE?
YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A VERY SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP.

FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES ME, I REACH OUT WITH MY HYPER-SENSES, SCANNING EVERY CORNER OF THE APARTMENT...
...THOUGH I'D HAVE BETTER LUCK FINDING TYPHOID WITH A BRAILLE HOROSCOPE AND A DIVINING ROD.
SOMETHING ABOUT THE WOMAN CLOUDS MY SENSES... ALMOST RENDERS HER INVISIBLE TO ME.
COULD THAT BE WHY MY OWN HEARTRATE JUST WENT UP A FEW NOTCHES..?
OR IS IT THE FACT THAT I'M LETTING A KNOWN KILLER WATCH MY BACK?
POOR SLOB. I WONDER IF HE EVEN REALIZES WHAT HE'S DEALING WITH IN TYPHOID.
DOES HE EVEN CARE?
MARY, MARY, MY LITTLE HOT-HOUZE FLOWER. I AM ZEEKING WHERE YOU ARE HIDING, NON?!
ROWR-ROWRR.
COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE! I'VE GOT SCOOBY SNACKS!
AH, FORGET IT... THE REDMAN'S GOT HER PEGGED ALL WRONG. SHE'S NOT HERE.
IF WE REALLY WANNA CATCH HER, DARDEVIL OUGHTA CRACK OPEN A BREW AND WAIT IT OUT AT HOME...
...'CAUSE HE'S THE ONE SHE'S GUNNING FOR.
MIGHT AS WELL FIND DAREDOOFUS AND TELL HIM --
SWIFT
-- THAT IT'S MURDER BEING SO RIGHT ALL THE TIME.

ALWAYS LEADING WITH YOUR *MOUTH,* SWEETIE...
THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY A *BAD* THING... BUT IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY TO LOSE YOUR *HEAD.*
YEAH... I GOTTA *WORK* ON THAT.
SHOULD PROBABLY START *FLOSSING,* TOO.
I KNEW SOMEDAY MY *PRINCE* WOULD COME...I JUST NEVER EXPECTED HIM TO BE SO *EASY* TO GET THE *DROP* ON.
THEY DON'T MAKE *PRINCES* LIKE THEY USED TO...
...AND INCIDENTALLY, I'M THE PRINCE *FORMERLY* KNOWN AS "*PRINCE.*" CALL ME @.
HAVE I *CHARMED* THE PANTS OFF OF YOU YET?
WAIT, SOMEONE *BEAT* ME TO --
MMFF?

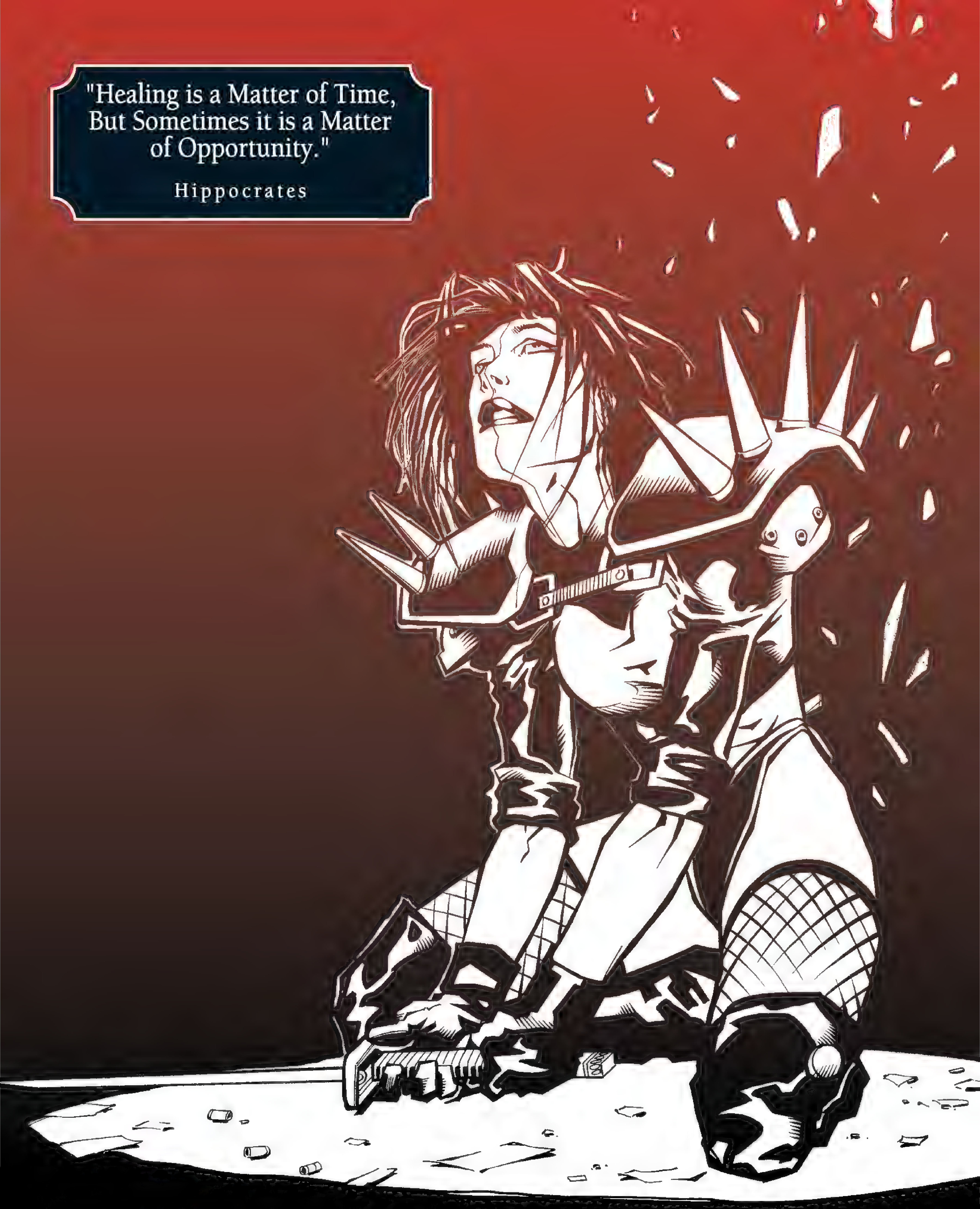
JUDGING BY THE BODY'S TEMPERATURE, I'D SAY WE MISSED HER BY ABOUT TWELVE HOURS.
NOTHING TO DO BUT PRESS MY EAR TO THE GROUND AND HOPE WE CAN PREDICT HER NEXT MOVE --
THAT NOISE...
RUNNING WATER?
IS THAT IDIOT TAKING A BATH?
GURGLE
GURGLE
SSSSSS
WOULDN'T WANT THE REDMAN TO EAVESDROP, NOW WOULD WE, BABY?
HE'S STILL SCOPING THE FIRST FLOOR, HE CAN'T HEAR A THING --
YOU'D BE SURPRISED WHAT THE DEVIL IS CAPABLE OF... DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HIM.
HE SAYS THE SAME THINGS ABOUT YOU. IT'S A REGULAR MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY.
LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT HIM... LET'S JUST ENJOY THE MOMENT... THE HEAT... I COULD GET USED TO THIS.
DON'T. I KNOW ENOUGH CLICHES NOT TO MIX BUSINESS AND PLEASURE. BLEACH AND AMMONIA, NEITHER.
YOU'VE GOT A FINANCIAL DEBT TO WORK OFF. YOU OWE ME BIG -- DOUBLE IN FACT, SINCE I WENT IN FOR THIS LITTLE TRIP OF YOURS --
BUT A HAPPY EMPLOYEE IS A PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYEE, SO I'M GAME TO HELP YOU SET UP THE REDMAN.
HE THINKS I'M HERE TO SAVE YOUR SOUL OR SOME JUNK... WHATTA MAROON. WHEN YOU GONNA HIT HIM WITH THE COUP DE GRACE?

SOON... I HAVE A FEW **LOOSE ENDS** TO TIE UP FIRST.
LOOSE ENDS?
FORMER... **ACQUAINTANCES...** WHO ALSO REQUIRE MY **ATTENTION.**
DAREDEVIL WASN'T THE **ONLY** ONE WHO **USED** ME, THOUGH HE WAS THE **BEST** AT IT...
THAT **WASN'T** THE DEAL.
MY FORMER **DOCTORS...** WHO HAVE FINALLY STOPPED **PRACTICING**
THE GOOD **JUDGE...** WHOSE **BLOOD** THE DEVIL IS **TRIPPING** THROUGH AS WE **SPEAK --**
YOU **PSYCHOPATHIC WITCH!**
I DIDN'T SIGN ON FOR **THIS!** I DIDN'T **AGREE** TO LET YOU COME HERE SO YOU COULD GO ON A **MURDER SPREE!**
YOU SAID YOU WERE AFTER **DAREDEVIL!**
I **AM...** THE OTHERS ARE **WARM UP...** THEY **WHET** MY BLADE...
NOT **ANYMORE!** DAREDEVIL'S **ONE** THING. HE'S A **PLAYER,** ONE OF **US.** THESE **OTHER** CHUMPS...
WHO ELSE DID YOU PLAN ON **WHACKING?**
NO MORE **CIVILIANS,** BABY... **HONEST...**
DON'T **PLAY** ME, MARY. I WANT THIS FINISHED. **NOW.**
ALRIGHT... HOWEVER YOU **WANT** IT I'LL GIVE YOU ALL YOU **NEED** TO SPRING THE **TRAP...** BUT **FIRST...**
...A LITTLE **SOMETHING** TO HELP YOU REMEMBER YOUR **LINES...**

HEAR A VOICE... DEADPOOL'S **OF COURSE**, AND...
AARGH
DEADPOOL!
SWEAT... CINNAMON... **BLOOD...**
TYPHOID!
DEADPOOL! TALK TO ME!
SURE. ξURKξ **NOW** HE WANTS ME TO **SPEECHIFY** WITH A HOLE IN MY **LUNG...**
SHE TAGGED ME **BAD.** DIDN'T THINK SHE WAS REALLY GOING TO **STAB** ME... **SNOOKERED** ME...
VERY **UNEXPECTEDLY...** I MEAN REALLY **REALLY** NOT WHAT I THOUGHT WAS GOING TO **TRANSPIRE...**
GONNA OWE THAT LITTLE --
WE'LL GET YOU TO A **HOSPITAL.**
-KAAK- NO NEED, MAN. **HEALIN' FACTOR...** BETTER THAN CRAZY GLUE...
SHE TOLD ME ABOUT THE **JUDGE...** THE **DOCS...** WE GOTTA GET HER BEFORE SHE MAKES THE NEXT **HIT...**
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE WENT?
OH YEAH, REDMAN... I'LL TAKE YOU **RIGHT** TO HER.

"Healing is a Matter of Time,
But Sometimes it is a Matter
of Opportunity."

Hippocrates



CHAPTER 2

THE VIPER CLUB.
TRENDY. EXCLUSIVE. CONNECTED.
NEW YORK 1A 31R21
VERY NICE. WE SHOULD POOL OUR RESOURCES LIKE THIS MORE OFTEN!
SHE GOT VINNIE THE ELBOW! ICED HIM IN HIS OWN HOME!
H-HEY BOSS...DON' GET ALL PESCI ON ME IF I ASK THIS, B-BUT YOU AIN'T AFRAID O' HER, ARE YOU?
NO...
NOT ANYMORE HE AIN'T.
SHE'S TOAST.
ALLA THE GODFATHER REJECTS ARE HOLED UP IN ONE PLACE, CIRCLING THE PASTA WAGONS AGAINST THE ONCOMING STORM.
STUPIDITY IN NUMBERS...YA GOTTA LOVE THE MOB. JUST AIN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE YOU TOOK OUT THE KINGPIN.
YOU REALLY WENT AND SCREWED THINGS UP.
75
THE Viper
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A COMPLIMENT.

I CAN HEAR THE MURMUR OF AN ARMY INSIDE. THE CLINK OF GUNS. BLADES. THEY COULD PROBABLY TAKE A SMALL COUNTRY.
THEY ONLY BARELY OUTGUN DEADPOOL.
A MOB VENDETTA, TOO? MARY MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF TIME ON HER HANDS BETWEEN SHOCK THERAPY AND FINGER PAINTING.
YOU SAY SHE'S HEADED FOR THE CONTROL ROOM?
YEAH, SO YOU WANNA FLIP FOR WHO GETS TO YELL "SPOON" AS WE CHARGE IN?
DEADPOOL, WAIT...BEFORE WE GO IN THERE AND THINGS GET ALL MIXED UP, WE HAVE TO TALK.
ARE WE GONNA HAVE A "NOT-SO-FRESH" MOMENT?
DON'T LET TYPHOID GET TO YOU. SHE HAS... A POWER OVER MEN. YOU MAY THINK YOU'VE GOT HER FIGURED OUT.
BUT BELIEVE ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT YOU DON'T. YOU CAN'T EVEN TRY...
ALL THAT LIES THERE IS DARKNESS.
YEAH, WELL... YOU DON'T GOTTA WORRY, REDMAN. I ALREADY LIVE IN THE DARK.
CHCHAK
LAST ONE T' BLOODY A MOBSTER IS A ROTTEN HERO.
DEADPOOL, WAIT! YOU MUST KNOW THIS IS A TRAP?!
OF COURSE IT IS! SO LET'S NOT DISAPPOINT ANYONE. THAT WOULD MAKE US RUDE GUESTS!
WHY DID I EVER THINK THIS WAS GOING TO BE A GOOD IDEA?
SIDEKICKS...

DOWNTOWN, AT A LITTLE JOINT IN THE VILLAGE...
MATT'S WORLD FAMOUS PIZZA
≯MMGLFF≮ S'EXCELLENT! YOU GOTTA TRY THE ≯SMAK≮ SHRIMP AND FETA CHEESE ONE! MMM -- IT'S TO DIE, WEASEL!
Oh, I DON'T KNOW, I'M SORT OF STUFFED...UNLESS YOU'RE, Uh... PICKING UP THE TAB..?
SURE! WHAT GOOD'S BEING A LAWYER IF YOU CAN'T SPLURGE AFTER A NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE?
EXCELLENT! HERE YOU GO, POOCHIE, DADDY'S PICKIN' UP THE TAB!
SO WELL TRAINED... SEEIN' EYE DOG TOO, Huh?
SLURP
SO, AS DD'S PAL, WHAT DO YOU DO, EXACTLY? MUST BE PRETTY HOT STUFF.
WELL, NOT --
ONE TIME, I SAVED POOL'S BACON BY PLUGGING A GUY RIGHT THROUGH THE BRAINPAN! BANG! COOL, RIGHT?
Oh HEAVENS... NO, I DON'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
COME ON, FOGGSTER, YOU CAN TELL ME... HE MAKE YOU CLEAN HIS WEAPONS? HACK INTO CIA COMPUTERS?
Uh, NO... TECHNOLOGY AND I AREN'T VERY COMPATIBLE...
HE EVER HAVE YOU OPEN ANY TICKING PACKAGES? USE YOU FOR TARGET PRACTICE? DRIVE HIM AT 3AM TO GUNS'R'US?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE A LICENSE, AND HE DOESN'T MAKE ME DO ANYTHING.
WE JUS', Y'KNOW... HANG OUT. PALS.
DO YOU THINK... DAREDEVIL COULD USE ANOTHER PAL? I WON'T GET IN THE WAY, I PROMISE...
YOU DON'T LIKE BEING DEADPOOL'S PAL?
IT'S GREAT. THE BEST. YOU WANNA TRADE? YOU'LL HAVE FUN...≯SNIF≮ I PROMISE...

LOCK AND LOAD, SOLDIERS...
...WE GOT INCOMING!
CLOSE QUARTERS, TOO MANY SOUNDS AND SMELLS. OVERWHELMING MY HYPER-SENSES...
TKSSSHH
BRAKKABRAKKK!
HAVE TO FOCUS COMPLETELY JUST TO HIT WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME --
-- AND HOPE DEADPOOL CAN HANDLE HIS OWN!
WOK CHOKK
WAIT, I KNOW YOU! YOU'RE BLOODSHOT-EYED-ULTRA-ARMORED G.I. JERK!
THAT BEARD IS MADE FROM LIFE-LIKE HAIR, RIGHT?
OKAY, CAMPERS! EVERYONE LINE UP SINGLE FILE...
...IT'S POLKA TIME!
DEADPOOL! WHAT'S YOUR -- THAT NOISE!
NO!
VREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE
AWWW! WHAT'D YOU GO AN' DO THAT FOR?!
MOM LETS US SHOOT GUNS IN THE HOUSE...
SCHWOK

NO KILLING!
POINT TAKEN -- ALTHOUGH...
...YOU ONLY KILL FOR MONEY! THIS WOULD BE PRO BONO! WHAT WOULD THE UNION THINK?
KRUUNCH
SWIFF
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE DRAGGED DOWN TO TYPHOID'S LEVEL!
IN CASE YOU FORGOT... I SORT OF ALREADY HAVE A LOCK ON THAT LEVEL...
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM, A PURIST? I KILL GUYS FOR LOTS OF REASONS!
I KILL GUYS FOR LOOKING AT ME FUNNY --
-- WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, YOU DO --
-- TALKING DOWN TO ME --
-- WHICH I'VE NOTICED YOU'RE ALSO PRONE TO DO ON OCCASION -- WHOA --
-- AND SOMETIMES, ⊱UNGH⊰ I LIKE TO OFF A GUY, JUST FOR LOOKIN' ⊱URK⊰ LIKE A BLIND MAN DRESSED HIM --
-- AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW? THAT WOULD BE YOU, TOO!
WHOMP
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...IF THERE WAS ANYONE I WAS BORN TO KILL... IT'S YOU! SAYONARA, SUCKER!

IT'S A **WAR ZONE** IN THERE... FREAKIN' BEAUTIFUL!
DAREDEVIL? WHAT THE #$@%^&* IS **HE** DOING HERE? THIS IS FOR **MARY!**
AND WHO'S THE **MOTORMOUTH** WITH THE **GUN FETISH?!**
WHERE IS THAT CRAZY **MARY**... I DON'T SEE HER ON THE **SCREEN!**
YOU DON'T **THINK --?**
LITTLE BOYS WITH THEIR TOYS... BUT STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY HIDE AND SEEK...
WHAT THE --?!
CH CHAKK
DON'T MOVE! **DON'T** @#$%^&* **MOVE!**
GOT AN **ARSENAL** OF THE UGLIEST **MEAT** IN NEW YORK GUARDING THE **ROOF,** THE **DOORS,** THE **GARAGE...**
CH CHKK
...BUT YOU'RE SO AFRAID THAT ONE OF THEM MIGHT STAB YOU IN THE BACK --
-- YOU LEAVE YOUR SUPER DUPER DOUBLE SECRET **RABBIT HOLE UNGUARDED.** WELL...
...NOT **COMPLETELY** UNGUARDED.
CAN I OFFER ANYONE ANYTHING TO **DRINK** BEFORE THE **SCREAMING** STARTS?
DID DEADPOOL JUST SAY HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME? WHAT IS HE --
WHOA.

I'M AN IDIOT. NEVER SHOULD HAVE *TRUSTED* HIM.
SWIFFFFF
IT'S A MISTAKE THAT MAY COST ME MY --
?
SHUNKT
?
Oh. *OKAY,* BUT STILL...
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR *MIND?!*
YOU'RE *WELCOME!* AND DON'T GET YER HORNS IN AN *UPROAR,* DD, HE *WON'T* DIE...
...I *GUESS...*
...I AIMED FOR THE *SPLEEN!*
CLOKK
Ulp?
I MEAN SERIOUSLY, WHAT DOES THE SPLEEN *DO,* ANYWAY? *YOU* KNOW, *HANDSOME?*
ISN'T IT FOR DIGESTING *SWALLOWED GUM* OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT --?
NOOOO!
OKAY, SO I'M *WRONG...* YOU GOTTA TELL *EVERYONE?* JEEZ!

NOW *THAT* WAS A HIGH-BURN *WORKOUT!* RICHARD SIMMONS WOULD BE PROUD --
-- IF I DIDN'T *SNAP* HIM IN TWO FOR BEING AN AFFECTED *DWEEB* --
-- DON'T YOU THINK, OH HORNY ONE?
WHATEVER YOU SAY... Oh *ACERBIC* ONE...
AND NOW THAT WE'VE SEPARATED THE WHEAT FROM THE *CHAFF*, MY *SENSES* ARE BACK ON-LINE ENOUGH TO TRY AND FIND TYPHOID --
ASCERBIC? I'M NOT FROM *SERBIA*... I'M *ADORABLE*.
BLAM BLAM
GUNFIRE! IT'S *TYPHOID!*
NAB HER, *DEVIL-DOG!* BEFORE THE *CHUMP PATROL* COMES TO THEIR SENSES --
BUT WHAT ABOUT --
GO! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU AFTER I *CLEAN UP* HERE...
...AND *THEN* WE CAN BRING THIS *THING* TO AN *END*.
WASN'T THAT A GREAT ROUND OF *BLEED-TAG, GIRLS?*
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE PLAY *ANOTHER* OF MY FAVORITE GAMES..?
HOT POTATO.
EXPLOS

SHE'S HERE... I *KNOW* IT. THE ABSENCE OF AIR IN THE ROOM IS ENOUGH.
THEN THERE'S THE SMELL OF HER *SKIN,* A *POISONED* PERFUME... AND THE *HEAT...*
AGAIN, I STRETCH MY SENSES TO THEIR *LIMITS...*
HELLO BABY.
AND FOR HALF A SECOND, MY HEAD *IMPLODES.*
I DON'T EVEN HEAR MYSELF *SCREAM.*
THEN THERE IS ONLY *RINGING...* AND HER *VOICE.*
NOW *THAT* IS HOW I LIKE MY *MEN.*
KNEW YOU'D TRY TO USE YOUR *SUPER-SENSES* TO FIND ME, *MATTHEW,* EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE *USELESS...*
CLICK
TOP-OF-THE-LINE AUDIO SYSTEM DID THE REST... THIS *IS* A *CLUB,* AFTER ALL. *LOUD.*
THANKS FOR BEING SO *PREDICTABLE.*
SO... LONG TIME NO *SCREAM.*

HOW'S THE GIRLFRIEND? JOB? YOU LOOK **FIT** --
TYPHOID... YOU HAVE TO STOP THIS... GET BACK TO --
-- YOUR TREATMENT...
YES. AND **NOTHING** WORKS BETTER THAN **SHOCK THERAPY, MATTHEW**...
DON'T... **DARE**... CALL ME THAT.
SO THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING... **SHOCKING** MY SYSTEM.
PURGING IT...
...OF EVERY MAN WHO EVER DID POOR LITTLE MARY **WRONG.**
BUT DON'T WORRY, **BABY.** AS ALWAYS, I'VE BEEN SAVING THE **BEST**...
...**FOR YOU!**
WHOULFF!
M-MARY... MARY, YOU CAN **FIGHT** TYPHOID... YOU'VE MADE **PROGRESS.**
I **HAVE** MADE PROGRESS, MATT, YOU'RE **RIGHT.** ALL THAT TIME IN THERAPY HELPED ME TO REALIZE...
...THAT LITTLE **MISS MARY** IS **DEAD!**

I *KILLED* MARY *WALKER*... SHE DOESN'T *EXIST* ANYMORE... *SHE NEVER DID.*
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL ALWAYS BE *TYPHOID!*
DON'T *TOUCH* ME!
FWAT
Oooh! YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT WITH MUCH *CONVICTION,* REDMAN...
YOU TRYING TO TELL ME TO *STAY BACK*... OR CONVINCE YOURSELF THAT'S WHAT YOU *WANT?*
I'LL MAKE IT EASY FOR YOU, BABY... I'VE MADE MY CHOICE.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF *SOILING* MYSELF WITH YOUR *TOUCH* AGAIN!
THUNK
HEAD CLEARING A *LITTLE*... BUT COULD BARELY DODGE HER *STROKE.*
SHE STRIKES WITH NO *HESITATION*... NO *REMORSE*... IS MARY WALKER REALLY *GONE?*
WE TRIED THAT *LAST* TIME, REMEMBER? THE *ROOF?* THE *RAIN?*
JUST NEED TO FOCUS FOR ONE... *SHOT*...
NO. NOT AGAIN. NOT *TODAY.*
TODAY IS ABOUT *RESTITUTION, REBIRTH*... NOT *RECONCILIATION.*
TODAY, I WIPE YOU FROM MY *LIFE*... YOU AND ALL OF THE *PAIN* YOU CAUSED ME.
THIS TIME FOR *GOOD.*
FWAPP
DEADPOOL?

MEANWHILE... THE VILLAGE.
WOW! I CAN'T RE- *HIK* -MEMBER THE LAST TIME I DID THIS...
...I CAN'T REMEMBER MY *HIK* PHONE NUMBER, EITHER...
SLAUGHTERED LAMB PUB
HOW DO YOU THINK OUR QUOTE UNQUOTE PALS ARE DOING?
WHY ARE THERE TWO DOGGIES HERE? I ONLY HAVE ONE DOGGIE.
I BET THOSE GUYS'LL GET ALONG SWELL...
SLAUGHTERED LAMB PUB
"SWELL"? JUST HOW MANY DRINKS DID YOU HAVE?
THEY'LL NEVER GET ALONG! OIL AND WATER! HEAVY METAL AND OPERA --
WOO WOOS AND FUZZY NAVELS... HURP...
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE ACTUALLY DRANK WOO WOOS ANYMORE... THERE ALCOHOL IN THOSE?
I DON'T KNOW... I DON'T *HIK* DRINK.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED.
YOU HUNGRY? I'M HUNGRY... WE'LL CALL FOR MORE 'ZA FROM MY PLACE!
YOUR PLACE? COOL! HEY, YOU, Eh... YOU GOT CARDS THERE?
YEAH... WHY? YOU WANNA PLAY UNO?
Uh... NO. I WAS THINKING A BIG BOY'S GAME... YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY FIVE CARD STUD?
NO... WILL YOU *HIK* TEACH ME?
WHOA, AVALANCHE!
SURRRE! I'LL TEACH YA FINE...
SO, YOU GOT THE PLAYBOY CHANNEL?
KRSSH

KTHOK
THAT'S MY **NAME...** NOW TRY IT AGAIN WITH A DISLOCATED JAW --
THAT'S IT? ONLY ONE WITTY QUIP, BABY?
BEATIN' THE **TAR** OUTTA A GUY WITH **BLOODY HOLES** FOR **EARDRUMS** DOESN'T MAKE FOR MUCH **COMEDY,** LADY.
WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU LET **ME** WORRY ABOUT THE **YUKS,** AND YOU...
...YOU JUST GET IT **OVER** WITH.
DEADPOOL... WORKING **WITH** MARY..? WHY...
THESE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN A **PURGING,** DEVIL... OF THE WRONGS LEVIED **AGAINST** ME...
GUESS WHO'S HEAD OF THE LIST --
UNGH I TRIED TO HELP YOU --
LOVING ME AND **LEAVING** ME TO BE POKED, PROBED, STIMULATED AND INVADED **WAS** VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU...
KRAK
...DARLING...

BUT THERE'S MORE. LIKE ALL OF THE MEN IN MY LIFE, YOU'VE VIOLATED ME IN WAYS YOU CANNOT FATHOM, "HERO".
TRUE, YOU NEVER STRUCK ME IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR...
...NEVER REACHED OVER TO TOUCH ME IN THE DARK OF A MOVIE THEATER... MOTHER TWO SEATS AWAY...
...NEVER KICKED A FRIGHTENED GIRL OUT OF A WINDOW AND LEFT HER TO DIE...
...OR DID YOU?
UM... THAT KICKING OUT OF THE WINDOW PART? THAT WAS ME, KIDDO...
NO, SWEETIE. I KNOW WHAT YOU DID... AND I FORGAVE YOU, BECAUSE YOU TRIGGERED SOMETHING IN ME...
RELEASED A MEMORY THAT I'D CONCEALED. TRULY, LITTLE MARY'S LAST IMAGE OF PAIN...
...AND OF A VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MAN.
WINDOW..? THIS IS MADNESS... HAVE TO STAND...
A YOUNG MAN WITH PIERCING EYES... MOVES, STILL RAW, BUT POTENT... BENT ON REVENGE... STARTING TO SOUND FAMILIAR, LOVER?
A BOY DRESSED TO KILL, WITH A SPOT IN HIS HEART TO MATCH... THE BOY WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME.
IT WAS YEARS AGO... AND LITTLE MARY HAD TRIPPED AWAY TO THE BIG CITY... SHE FOUND HERSELF IN A BROTHEL ON THE EAST SIDE...
BROTHEL? ON THE EAST -- Oh MY GOD...

"MARY HAD FOUND A **SHELTER** FROM THE STORM... A **PUTRESCENT** ONE TO BE SURE...
"...BUT SHE GOT TO KEEP **TEN PERCENT,** AND THE CUSTOMERS WERE...
"...**ALMOST** HUMANE.
"THEN, ONE NIGHT... **HE** CAME.
"LIKE THE SCORCHING SUMMER **EMBODIED**... A YOUNG **MANLING** IN SEARCH OF A **MONSTER**...
"...A **CUSTOMER** WHO HAD HURT SOMEONE HE **LOVED**... A FATHER... HIS **RIGHTEOUSNESS** WAS **TANGIBLE**.
"HE NEVER EXPECTED THE **GIRLS** TO **ATTACK**.
"**BITE**.
"**SCRATCH**.
"HE **PANICKED**.
"I SMELLED IT ON HIS BREATH AS HE **EXHALED**... **LASHED OUT**...
"...**HARD**.
"EVEN AS I **FELL**, I REMEMBER THINKING, 'THIS IS THE **LAST** TIME. I WILL **NEVER** BE HURT BY A **MAN** AGAIN...'
"EVERYTHING THAT WAS WEAK... **DIED**. EVERYTHING THAT IS **NOW**... WAS **BORN**.
"BORN OF **HIM**..."

"-- BORN OF YOU, DEVIL."
IT CAN'T BE... I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD.
ALL THOSE YEARS... THOUGHT I HAD KILLED YOU...
YOU'RE ALIVE.
YES, I AM. ALIVE... AND I REMEMBER.
THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A BOND BETWEEN US... ONE SO DEEP EVEN I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT --
-- UNTIL DEADPOOL RELEASED MY MIND, AND I SAW YOU IN THAT BOY.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
EVERYTHING HIT ME AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY. IT WAS LIKE COMPARING SNAPSHOTS. BEFORE AND AFTERS.
SO I HAD TO COME. I HAD TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE WHEN I TOLD YOU... THAT EVERY MAN I'VE EVER KILLED...
...EVERY LIFE I'VE SHREDDED... THE OCEAN OF BLOOD SPILLED BY MY HAND...
...ALL STARTED WITH YOU.
KNOW THIS, ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY... AND THEN DIE.
I'VE CARRIED THAT MOMENT WITH ME FOR YEARS.
THE JASMINE YOU WORE TO KILL THE STENCH OF YOUR WORK... FEEL OF YOUR STOMACH AS I MADE HORRIBLE CONTACT...
...IT WAS THE BIGGEST MISTAKE THAT I'VE EVER MADE IN MY LIFE...
...BUT I UTTERLY REFUSE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU BECAME.
HOW DARE YOU..?

YOU DROVE THE FINAL SPIKE!
YOU CAUSED THE FATAL SCHISM!
YOU DID THIS TO ME! YOU MADE ME!
NO, I DIDN'T, TYPHOID. WHAT I DID WAS WRONG... IT'S A WEIGHT I'VE CARRIED FOREVER ON MY SOUL...
BUT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
KZZAZSH
I LIVE BECAUSE OF THE THINGS THAT MEN DID TO ME!
WHAT YOU DID, MOST OF ALL!
NO, MARY. YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE BECAUSE OF THE CHOICES YOU MAKE!
SOMETIMES LIFE IS TRAGEDY AND PAIN AND ACCIDENTS! BUT WAS I THERE WHEN YOU PULLED YOUR FIRST TRIGGER?
WAS I THERE THE FIRST TIME YOU TOOK A LIFE? NO! YOU MADE THAT CHOICE ON YOUR OWN!
THWOP
YOU TOOK MY CHOICES AWAY!
BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO EVERYONE, BUT WE DON'T ALL LASH OUT AT THE WORLD BECAUSE OF IT!
FOR ALL OF YOUR BASHING OF LITTLE MARY WALKER, IT'S TYPHOID WHO'S THE WEAK ONE!
WHEN THINGS GOT TOO TOUGH, SHE RETREATED INTO INSANITY!
NO-- UNGH!
CHWOKK

IT'S A LOT EASIER TO BE CRAZY THAN TO FACE REALITY --
-- TO LIVE WITH PAIN... SHAME... GUILT... AND JUST GET ON WITH LIVING.
I WILL ALWAYS BE ASHAMED OVER WHAT I DID TO YOU, BUT I WILL NEVER ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR DARKENING YOUR HEART.
I WILL NOT TAKE ON THE GUILT OF THE CRIMES YOU'VE COMMITTED.
WE'RE ALL FORCED TO MAKE CHOICES IN THE FACE OF PAIN.
I'VE CHOSEN TO UPHOLD THE LIGHT AS BEST AS I CAN, IN SPITE OF THE DARKNESS.
YOU'VE CHOSEN TO EMBRACE IT... AND NOTHING YOU SAY WILL EVER MAKE ME ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.
NO... I... I WASN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS... WANT YOU TO PAY...
"IF THAT'S ALL YOU WANTED, THEN YOU'VE FAILED... MISERABLY."
MADE ME...
...NOT THAT BAD...
...DEADPOOL, KILL HIM FOR ME... PLEASE... KILL HIM...
SORRY, KID... IT'S OVER.
GOOD JOB, DOC, BUT I THINK OUR TIME TOGETHER IS ABOUT UP.
WHAT DO YOU SAY YOU SEND HER A BILL, I'LL HANDLE IT FROM HERE.
I TAKE IT THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU BLOW ME AWAY IN A FINAL, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE?

NO, THAT'D BE *CLICHE,* AN' I GOT MORE *COUTH* THAN THAT. BESIDES... I NEVER REALLY WANTED *T'OFF* YOU ANYWAYS.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, *REDMAN,* THIS WAS ONE BIG *THERAPY SESSION,* AND YOU PLAYED YOUR PART JUST *FINE* --
-- THE *WINDOW* THING WAS SORTA *COOL*... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN ONE *TOUGH* LITTLE *BRAT* --
-- BUT *OTHERWISE,* THIS WENT OFF WITHOUT A *HITCH.*
YOU *KNEW* ALL THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
NO. I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D GO AFTER ANYONE BUT *YOU*...
...OKAY, THERE WERE A *FEW* HITCHES...
WHY? HOW COULD YOU ALLOW THIS?
SOMEONE ONCE POINTED OUT TO ME... THAT I MIGHT HAVE A *RESPONSIBILITY* TO MARY.
NOW, I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S *TRUE,* BUT IF IT *IS* --
... THEN I FIGURED THE *FIRST* THING WOULD BE TO TRY AND HELP HER FACE HER *DEMONS*... NOT LIKE THOSE *PANSIES* IN THE *PSYCH WARD* DO IT --
-- BUT THE WAY *FOOLS* LIKE US DO... HEAD ON, *SWEATING* AND *BLEEDING.* *DUKING* IT OUT TILL ONLY *ONE* IS LEFT STANDING.
IN *THIS* CASE, MARY WAS AFTER THE *WRONG DEMON.* I HAD TO HELP HER *SEE* THAT. YAY TEAM.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU *WALK* OUT OF HERE WITH HER, DEADPOOL. NOT ONLY IS SHE A *KILLER* --!
GIVE ME A BREAK, *HORNBOY. DEAD BODIES* ASIDE, YOU GOT AS *MUCH* OUT OF THIS AS *SHE* DID.
ABSOLUTION.

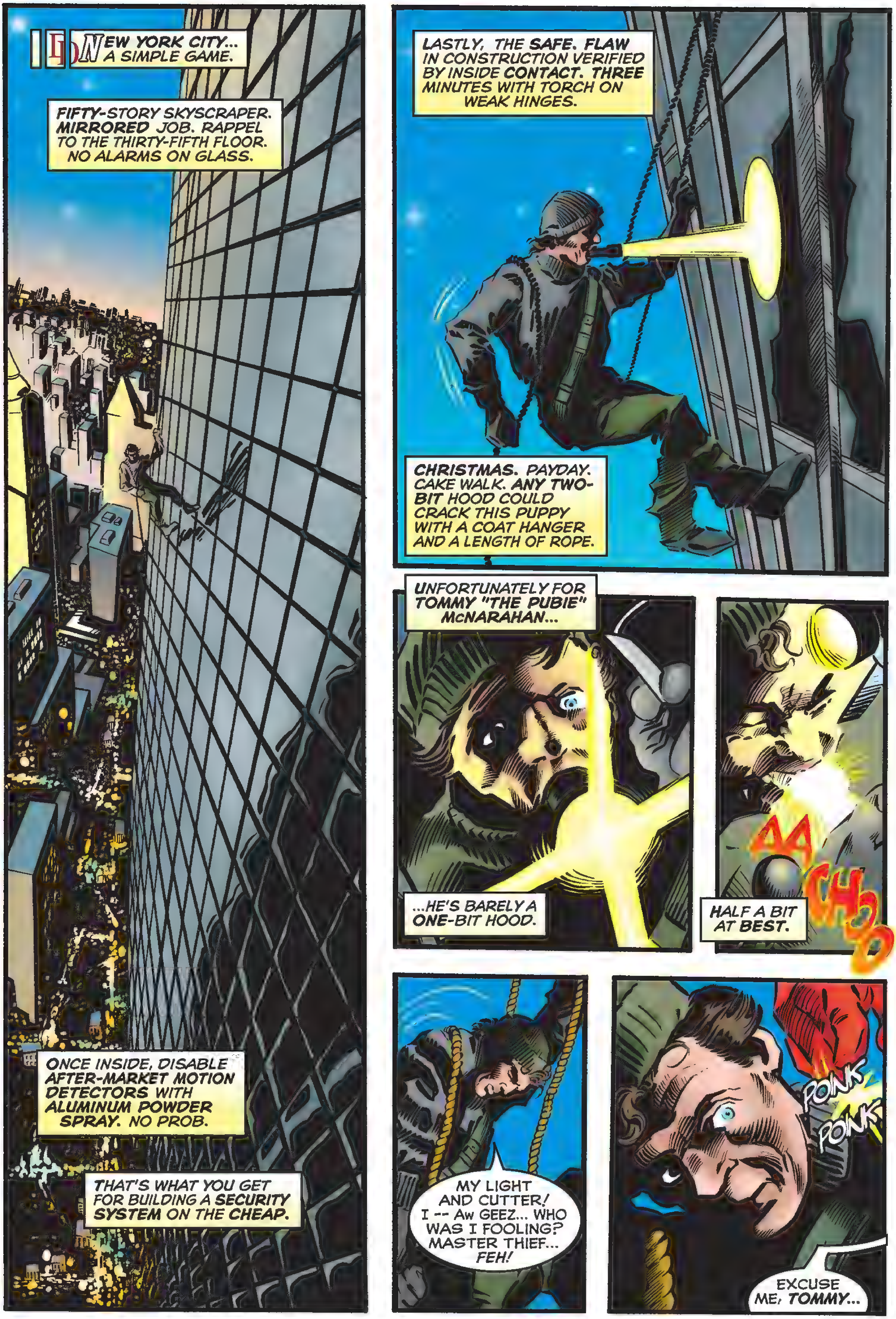
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE, YOU KNOW FOR SURE THAT YOU'RE NOT A KILLER. CASE CLOSED... HERS HAS JUST OPENED.
NOW, YOU MAY NOT HAVE MUCH REASON TO, BUT YOU GOTTA TRUST ME. I'M GONNA DO THE RIGHT THING. FOR REAL.
WE MONSTERS HAVE OUR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.
SO GO... ENJOY YOUR NEWFOUND LIGHTNESS OF BEING WHILE WE SLINK BACK TO THE SHADOWS...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THAT WOMAN WILL DO TO YOU?
PFAF
THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. SHE CHOOSES TO LIVE IN DARKNESS. SHE'LL JUST DRAG YOU DOWN WITH HER.
PROBABLY...
...BUT MAYBE NOT. I'M NOT AS FAR GONE AS YOU MAY THINK, RED.
MAYBE WITH TIME... BOTH OF US CAN WALK INTO THE LIGHT.
PRETTY LOFTY ASPIRATIONS FOR A COUPLE OF FREAKS, HUH?

THE POLICE PICK UP THE MESS IN THE CLUB.
CORONERS BAG AND TAG WHAT'S LEFT.
THIS IS FAR FROM OVER.
BUT EVEN THOUGH MARY'S STILL OUT THERE --
HEADED GOD-KNOWS-WHERE WITH A MADMAN AS HER CARETAKER...
THINGS FEEL... LIKE THEY'LL BE OKAY. AS FOR ME...
I'M NOT A MURDERER.
FOR A LITTLE WHILE AT LEAST...
...THAT'S ENOUGH.
THE DEVIL HEADS HOME.
SMILING.
THE NEXT MORNING...
fuggy
WHA? ⸗SNORT⸗ WEASEL?
Ohhh MY HEAD... NEVER AGAIN...
Duff's
I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH AFTER THE FIRST SIX PACK, WEAZ... DID WE STREAK SOMEONE?

Oh... HE'S GONE. NOTE.
"DEAR FOGGSTER... HAD A GREAT TIME. THANKS FOR LETTING ME CRASH AT YOUR PAD, I OWE YOU!
foggy
"SPEAKING OF DEBTS, CONSIDER YOUR POKER TAB PAID IN FULL! THANKS AGAIN, WEAZ."
POKER TAB? I DON'T REMEMBER...
Oh... WAIT... I WAS LOSING. BUT WHAT DID I BET? WHAT DID I LOSE?
... DEUCE?
WELL? HOW'D IT GO?
ON THE PLUS SIDE, GOT TO POUND THE SNOT OUT OF NYC'S FINEST MOB-HITTERS, BLEW UP A CAB, AND MADE SOME PROGRESS WITH MY NEW FRIEND MARY...
ON THE MINUS SIDE, MARY OFFED ABOUT A DOZEN TAXPAYERS, MAKING ME LOOK LIKE A DURN IDJIOT...
...OH, AND DAREDEVIL PROBABLY WANTS TO PULL MY INTESTINES OUT THROUGH MY NOSE, BUT THAT'S NO BIGGIE...
"PROGRESS?" WE TALKING SHOW AND TELL HERE?

NAH... NOTHIN' LIKE ***THAT.*** PURELY ***MENTAL*** PROGRESS... I THINK.
THIS ***QUASI-HEROIC*** STUFF ISN'T AN ***EXACT SCIENCE,*** YOU KNOW... BUT IT'S A ***GOOD*** THING.
FOR ***YOUR*** SAKE, I HOPE SO.
MORE TO THE POINT THOUGH... WHERE'S MY ***DADBLAMED PRESENT?!***
HERE. I HOPE IT'S YOUR ***SIZE.***
WEASEL HELPED PICK IT OUT.
WE RIPPED THE ***TAGS*** OFF IT, SO I CAN'T ***RETURN*** IT IF YOU DON'T LOVE IT, ***THOUGH.***
Oh, THAT'S OKAY...
...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
100% USDA
NEW YORK STEAK
YOU WENT TO THE ***CULTURAL CAPITAL*** OF THE ***WORLD...*** AND YOU BROUGHT ME BACK ***DEAD FLESH?***
IT'S ***NEW YORK FLANK STEAK,*** AL! OFFICIAL ***MEAT*** OF THE BIG APPLE!
WADE! I GOT TONS OF BEEF IN THE FREEZER! THIS SUCKS!
OH, YE OF LITTLE ***FAITH*** AND MUCHO ***WRINKLES...*** THAT'S JUST THE FIRST PART OF ***YOUR*** PRESENT!
HOLD THE STEAK NICE AND ***CLOSE*** TO YOUR BODY... ***THAT'S*** IT! NOW ***HEEEEEERE*** COMES THE SECOND PART...
"...COME AND GET IT!"
COME AND GET WHA--?
WAAADE!
DEUCE
END

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
THE MA WITHOUT F
OCT
#368
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
The WIDOW'S DEADLY KISS
F. Olivetti '97
ATOMIC
Featuring
OMEGA RED
KELLY COLAN LaROSA

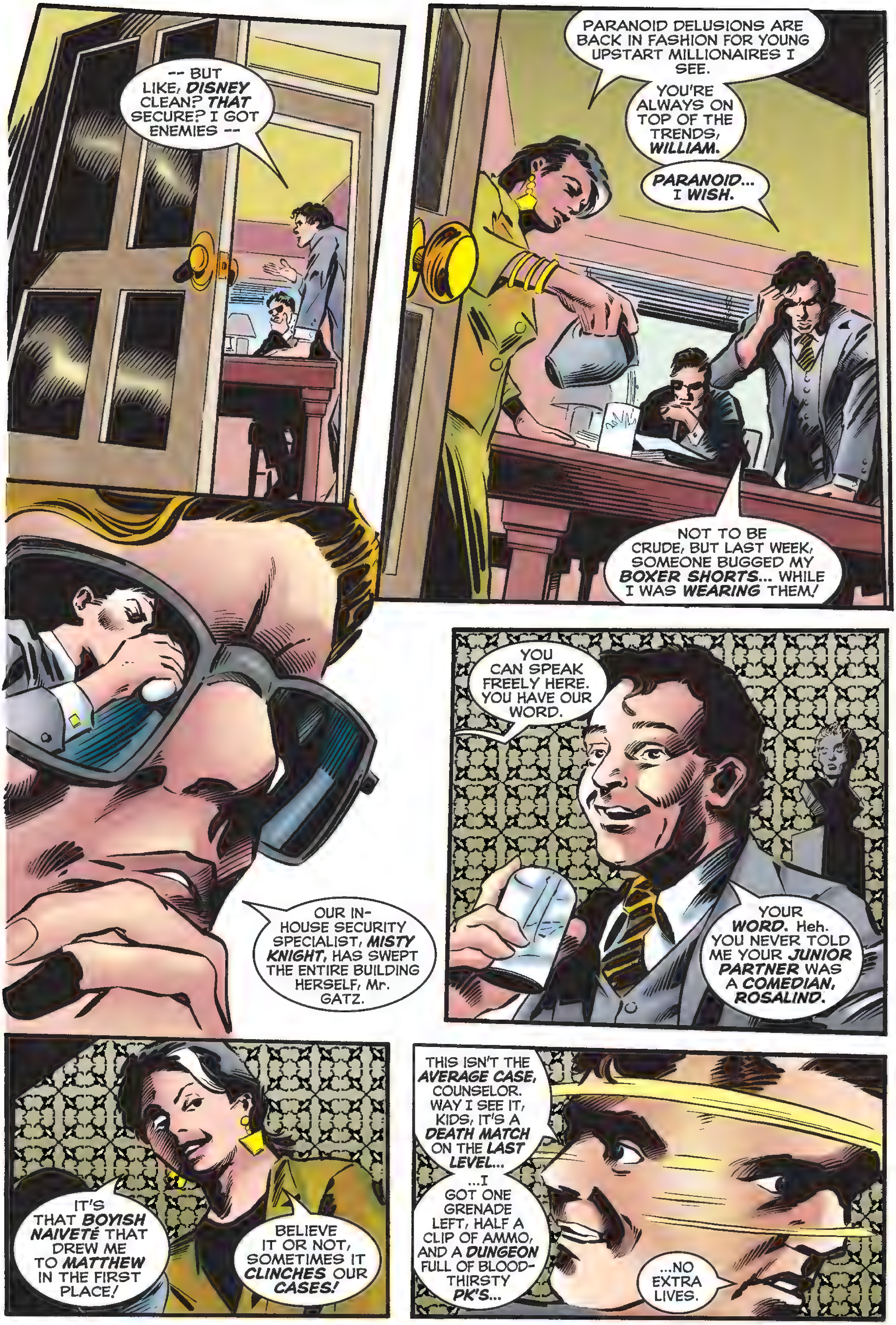

NEW YORK CITY... A SIMPLE GAME.
FIFTY-STORY SKYSCRAPER. MIRRORED JOB. RAPPEL TO THE THIRTY-FIFTH FLOOR. NO ALARMS ON GLASS.
ONCE INSIDE, DISABLE AFTER-MARKET MOTION DETECTORS WITH ALUMINUM POWDER SPRAY. NO PROB.
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR BUILDING A SECURITY SYSTEM ON THE CHEAP.
LASTLY, THE SAFE. FLAW IN CONSTRUCTION VERIFIED BY INSIDE CONTACT. THREE MINUTES WITH TORCH ON WEAK HINGES.
CHRISTMAS. PAYDAY. CAKE WALK. ANY TWO-BIT HOOD COULD CRACK THIS PUPPY WITH A COAT HANGER AND A LENGTH OF ROPE.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR TOMMY "THE PUBIE" McNARAHAN...
...HE'S BARELY A ONE-BIT HOOD.
AACHOO
HALF A BIT AT BEST.
MY LIGHT AND CUTTER! I -- AW GEEZ... WHO WAS I FOOLING? MASTER THIEF... FEH!
POINK
POINK
EXCUSE ME, TOMMY...

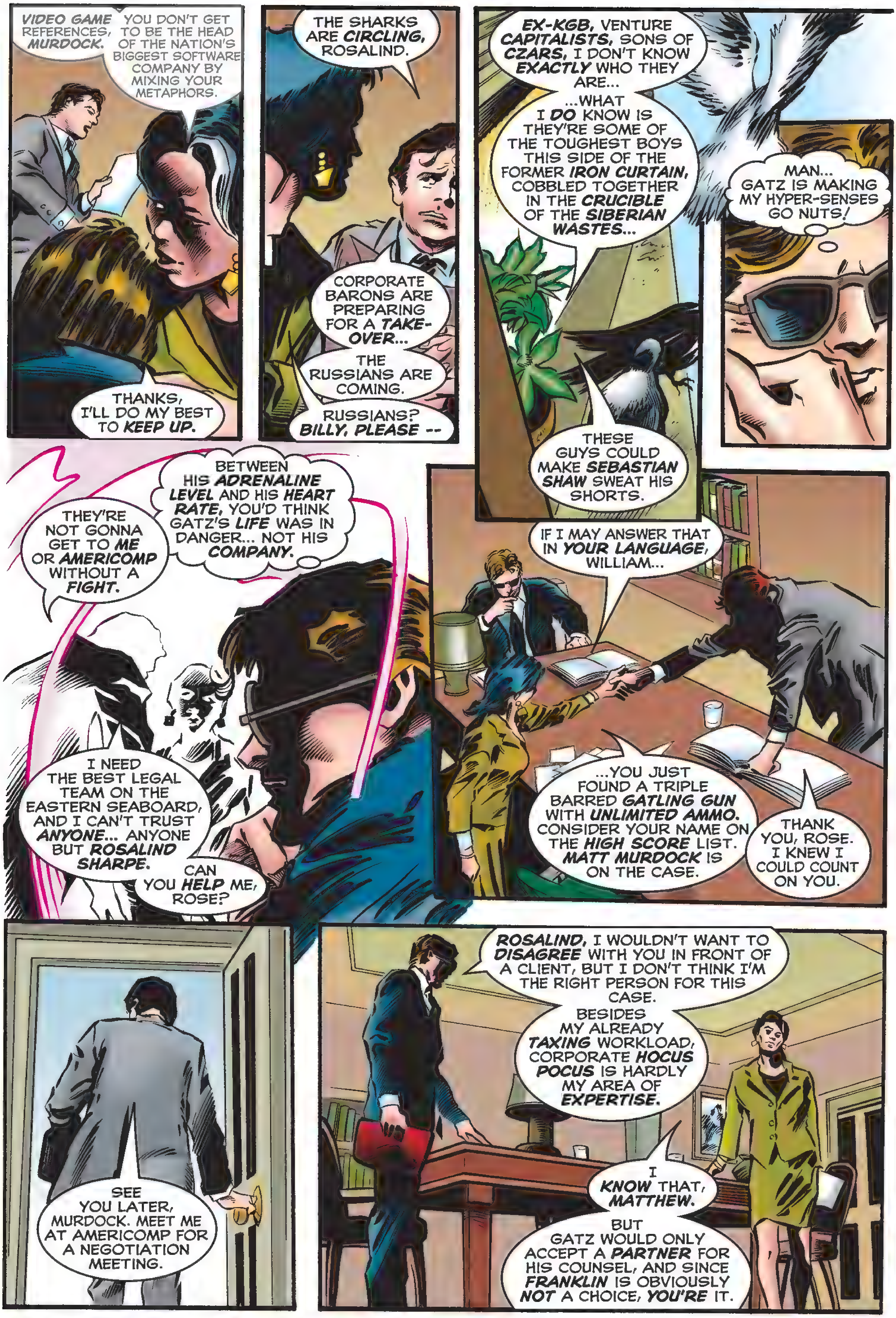
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
WIDOW'S KISS
...YOU REALLY OUGHT TO BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU THROW YOUR TRASH.
LITTERING IS AGAINST THE LAW IN THIS TOWN...
JOE KELLY WRITER
GENE "THE DEAN" COLAN PENCILER
BUD LAROSA INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLOR
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
AND I, FOR ONE, GIVE A HOOT.

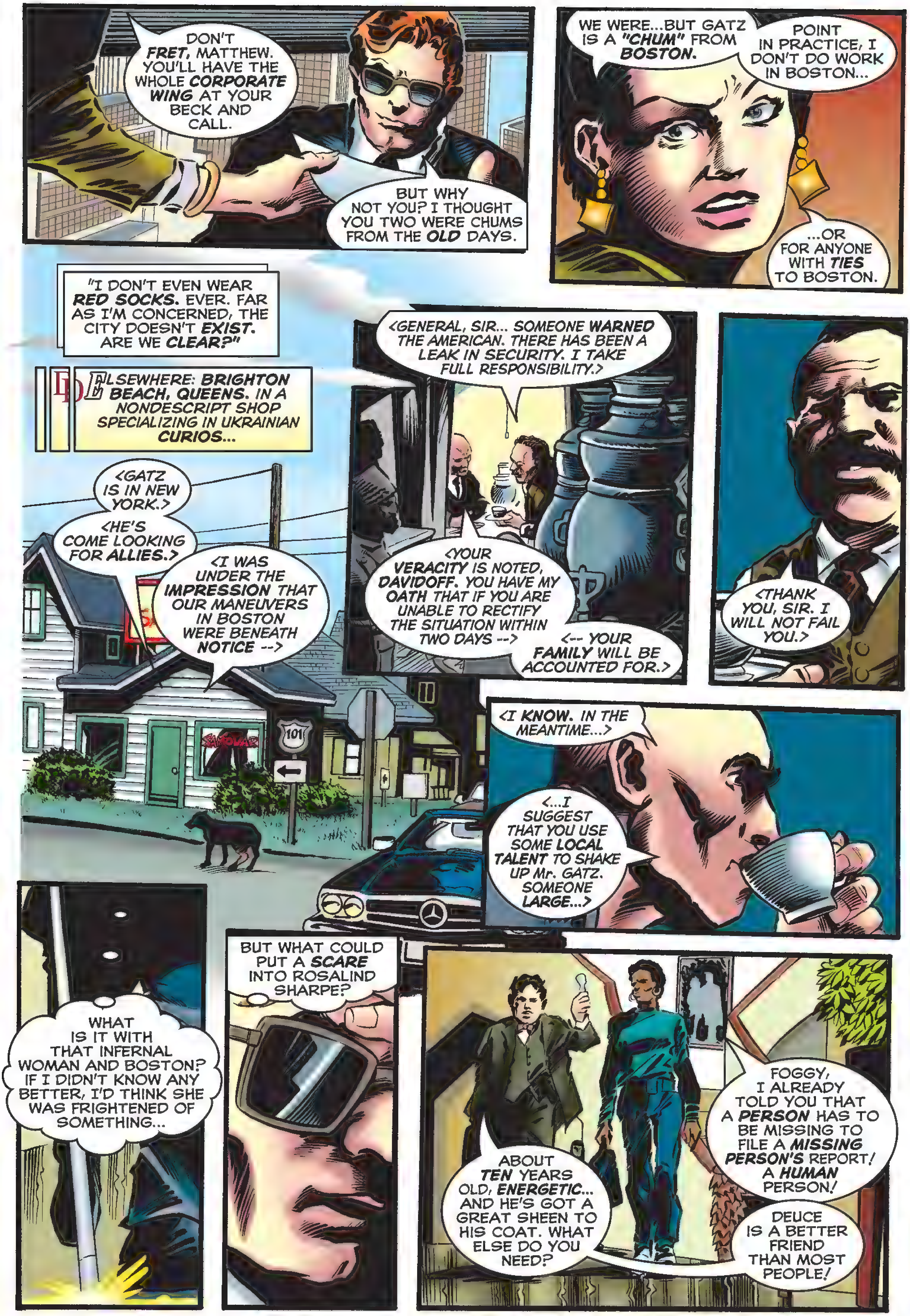
NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR UNDIVIDED ATTENTION...
...WHAT DO YOU SAY WE HAVE A CHAT, TOM? DEVIL TO DELINQUENT?
S-SURE... WHATEVER YOU SAY...
...JUST DON'T L-LET ME FALL.
THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE... A SHORT SWING ACROSS TOWN LATER...
OF COURSE NOT! AT LEAST, NOT BEFORE SUNRISE.
THE DAWN IS SPECTACULAR FROM UP HERE. I PROMISE YOU'LL LOVE IT. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE AFTER... AFTER.
Oh GOD...
YEAH, IT'S SOMETHING UP HERE. SORT OF RESTORES YOUR FAITH IN THINGS, DOESN'T IT?
EVEN A BLIND MAN COULD APPRECIATE THE MAGIC OF THE PLACE. THE GHOST TASTE OF SALT... SONG OF THE GULLS COMING HOME TO ROOST.
BUT, I DIGRESS.
YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY YOU AREN'T HALF-WAY TO THE HOOSEGOW BY NOW, AREN'T YA, TOM?
I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...
WELL, I'LL TELL YOU, SON, INSTEAD OF THE USUAL ME-BEATING-YOU-SENSELESS-AND-DRAGGING-YOU-TO-THE-COPS-THING, I THOUGHT I'D BRING YOU HERE AND TAKE A CHANCE.
ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME?
TOMMY, I NEED YOU TO FOCUS HERE.

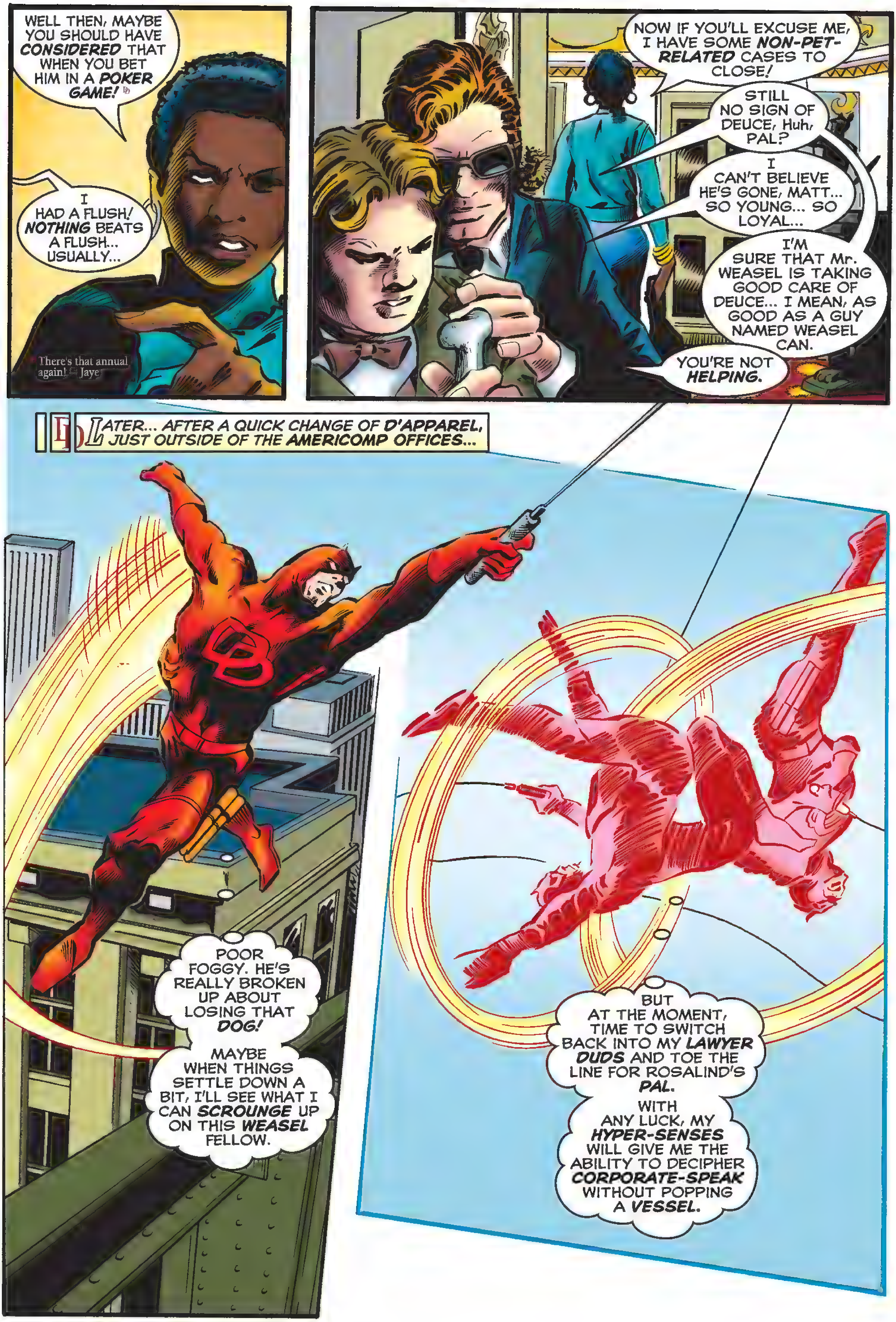
TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, EXCEPT FOR BEING A BLOCKHEAD AND PLAYING CAT BURGLAR --
-- YOU REALLY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WORTH BURDENING AN ALREADY TAXED SYSTEM FOR.
I GUESS... I ALWAYS WAS SORT OF AN UNDERACHIEVER.
HOWEVER, I HAVE A FEELING THAT THIS MAY NOT BE YOUR LAST ATTEMPT. YOU'RE AT A CROSSROADS, TOM... OR A BRIDGE, IF YOU WILL...
...BETWEEN WHERE YOU'VE BEEN AND WHERE YOU'RE GOING.
SEE WHERE THE LOCALE HELPS ILLUSTRATE MY LITTLE ANALOGY?
I STOOD ON THIS BRIDGE ONCE... AND IN A MOMENT OF ANGER, I MADE A WRONG CHOICE. IT COST ME DEARLY.
BUT RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED... THAT THOUGH MY ACTIONS HAD REPERCUSSIONS...
"...THEY WEREN'T AS BAD AS I'D THOUGHT. I FOUND OUT... THAT I WASN'T A KILLER.
"SO IN THE NAME OF KARMA, I'VE DECIDED TO PASS ALONG THE BOON, SO TO SPEAK.
"GIVE YOU A SECOND SHOT AT PICKING THE RIGHT PATH.
"IT MAY BE THE MORE DIFFICULT ONE... YOU MAY HAVE TO WORK HARDER AT IT...
"BUT I GUARANTEE IT'S WORTH IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOM?"
For the whole scoop on what DD's talking about, check out DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL '97, still on sale! –Jaye.
I... I GET IT...
...YOU WANNA BE PARTNERS! TEACH ME ALL YOU KNOW SO I CAN BE A BETTER BURGLAR! AN APPRENTICE!
WOW, THIS IS GREAT!
SIGH
HEY, WHERE YOU GOIN', DD? THIS SOME SORT OF TEST OR SOMETHIN'? DD?
SO MUCH FOR KARMA.
SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T APPRECIATE THE POWER OF A GOOD SUNRISE. ON THE OTHER HAND...

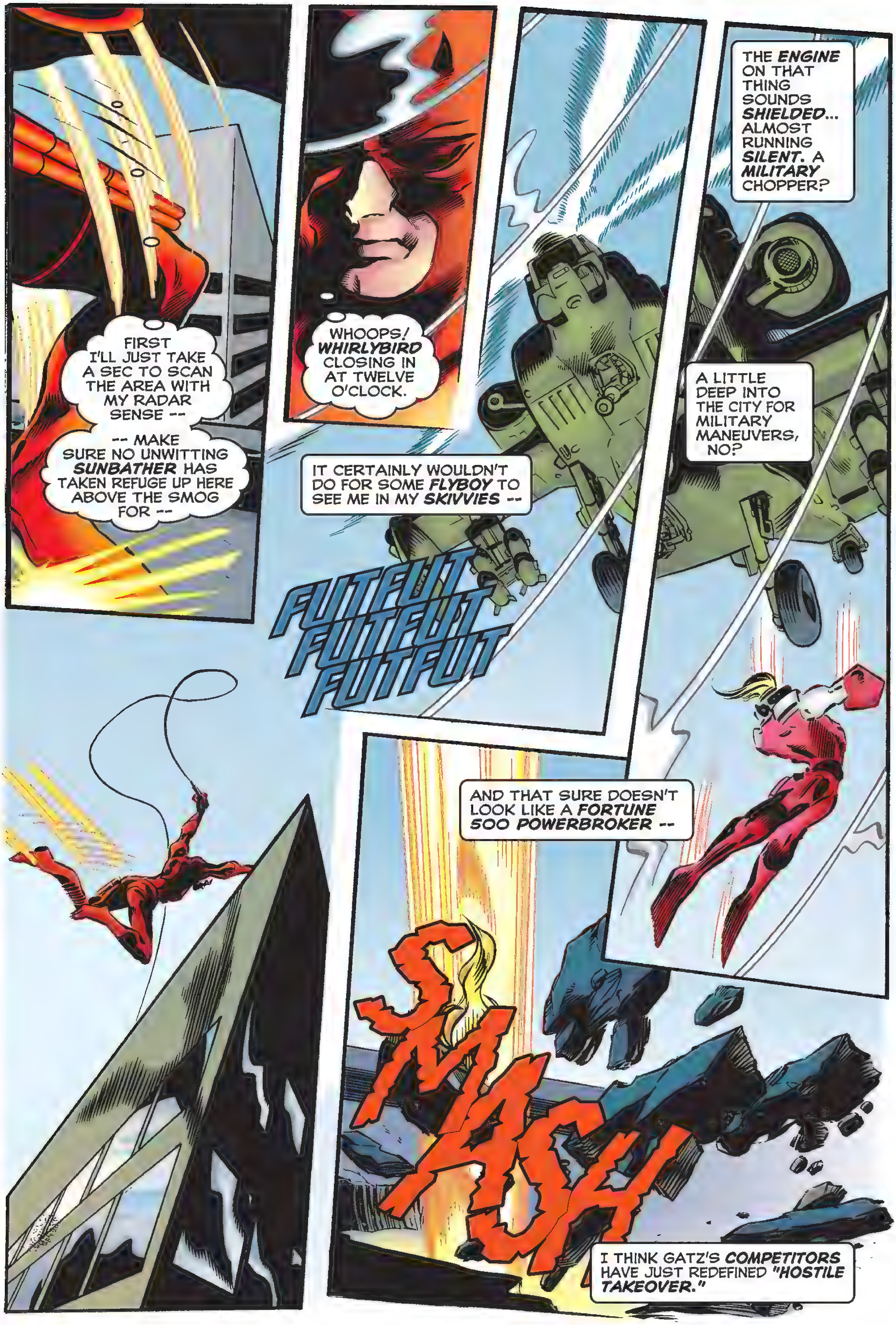
...SOME PEOPLE ARE SUCH BRIGHT POINTS OF LIGHT... THAT THEY OUTSHINE THE SUN ALTOGETHER.
PEOPLE LIKE THE WOMAN WHO I OUGHT TO BE SHARING THIS GOOD VIBE WITH...
...KAREN.
FOR ALL SHE'S BEEN THROUGH LATELY --
-- THE STATION CLOSING DOWN... THE ATTACK BY Mr. FEAR --
-- SHE DESERVES A LITTLE EXTRA SUN IN HER LIFE ABOUT NOW.
NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT I'M NOT A ROMANTIC.
Dinner Tonight— Wear something Touchy Feeley
LATER, AT THE PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRM OF SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK...
...WHERE THE SUN IS SOMETIMES AFRAID TO SHINE...
IS THIS A CLEAN ROOM? I MEAN REALLY CLEAN, NOT CITY HALL CLEAN, NOT WHITE HOUSE CLEAN --


-- BUT LIKE, **DISNEY** CLEAN? **THAT** SECURE? I GOT ENEMIES --
PARANOID DELUSIONS ARE BACK IN FASHION FOR YOUNG UPSTART MILLIONAIRES I SEE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON TOP OF THE TRENDS, **WILLIAM.**
PARANOID... I **WISH.**
NOT TO BE CRUDE, BUT LAST WEEK, SOMEONE BUGGED MY **BOXER SHORTS...** WHILE I WAS **WEARING** THEM!
OUR IN-HOUSE SECURITY SPECIALIST, **MISTY KNIGHT,** HAS SWEPT THE ENTIRE BUILDING HERSELF, Mr. GATZ.
YOU CAN SPEAK FREELY HERE. YOU HAVE OUR WORD.
YOUR **WORD.** Heh. YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR **JUNIOR PARTNER** WAS A **COMEDIAN, ROSALIND.**
IT'S THAT **BOYISH NAIVETÉ** THAT DREW ME TO **MATTHEW** IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, SOMETIMES IT **CLINCHES** OUR **CASES!**
THIS ISN'T THE **AVERAGE CASE,** COUNSELOR. WAY I SEE IT, KIDS, IT'S A **DEATH MATCH** ON THE **LAST LEVEL...**
...I GOT ONE GRENADE LEFT, HALF A CLIP OF AMMO, AND A **DUNGEON** FULL OF BLOOD-THIRSTY **PK'S...**
...NO EXTRA LIVES.

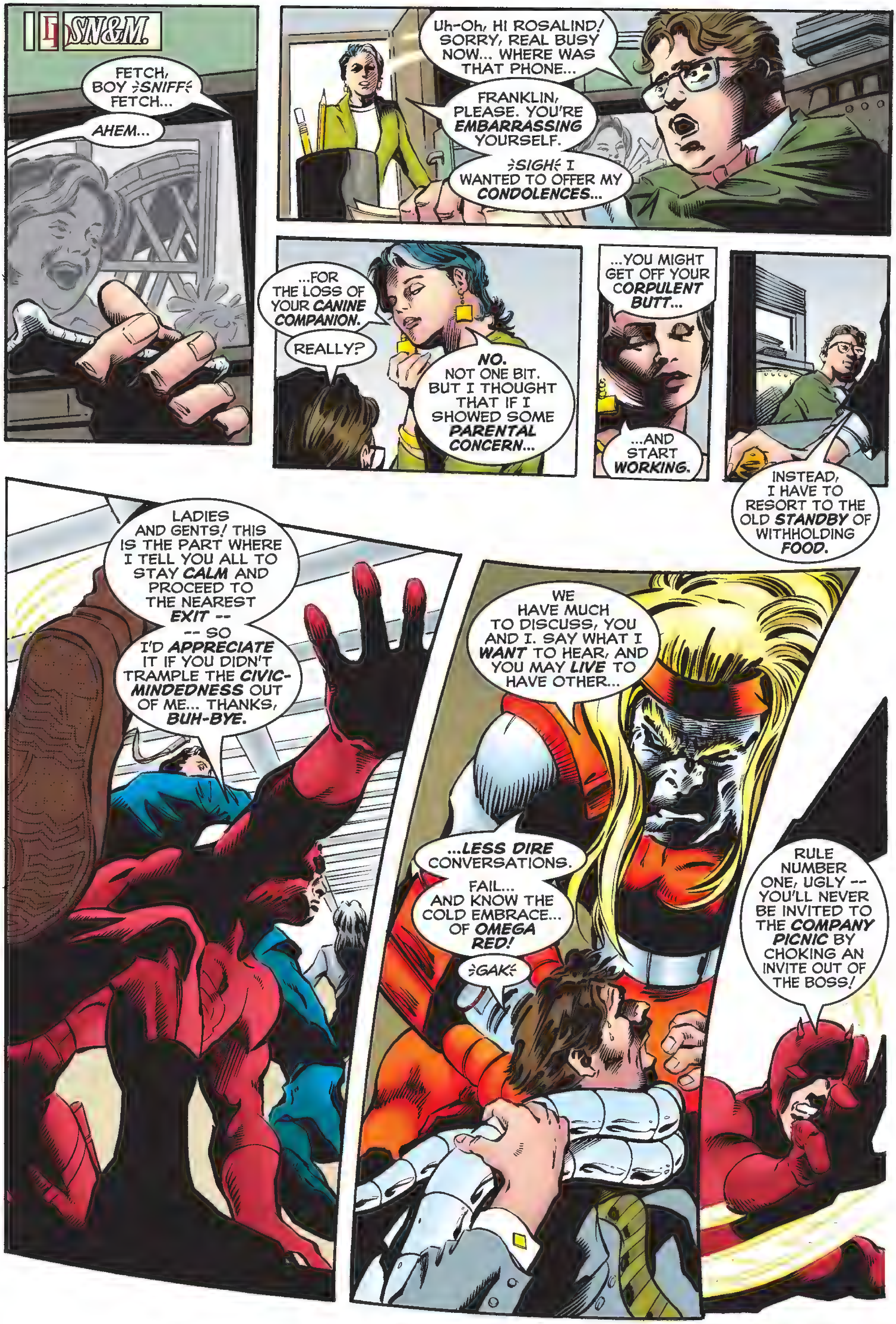

VIDEO GAME REFERENCES, MURDOCK.
YOU DON'T GET TO BE THE HEAD OF THE NATION'S BIGGEST SOFTWARE COMPANY BY MIXING YOUR METAPHORS.
THANKS, I'LL DO MY BEST TO KEEP UP.
THE SHARKS ARE CIRCLING, ROSALIND.
CORPORATE BARONS ARE PREPARING FOR A TAKE-OVER...
THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING.
RUSSIANS? BILLY, PLEASE --
EX-KGB, VENTURE CAPITALISTS, SONS OF CZARS, I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHO THEY ARE...
...WHAT I DO KNOW IS THEY'RE SOME OF THE TOUGHEST BOYS THIS SIDE OF THE FORMER IRON CURTAIN, COBBLED TOGETHER IN THE CRUCIBLE OF THE SIBERIAN WASTES...
THESE GUYS COULD MAKE SEBASTIAN SHAW SWEAT HIS SHORTS.
MAN... GATZ IS MAKING MY HYPER-SENSES GO NUTS!
THEY'RE NOT GONNA GET TO ME OR AMERICOMP WITHOUT A FIGHT.
BETWEEN HIS ADRENALINE LEVEL AND HIS HEART RATE, YOU'D THINK GATZ'S LIFE WAS IN DANGER... NOT HIS COMPANY.
I NEED THE BEST LEGAL TEAM ON THE EASTERN SEABOARD, AND I CAN'T TRUST ANYONE... ANYONE BUT ROSALIND SHARPE.
CAN YOU HELP ME, ROSE?
IF I MAY ANSWER THAT IN YOUR LANGUAGE, WILLIAM...
...YOU JUST FOUND A TRIPLE BARRED GATLING GUN WITH UNLIMITED AMMO. CONSIDER YOUR NAME ON THE HIGH SCORE LIST. MATT MURDOCK IS ON THE CASE.
THANK YOU, ROSE. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.
SEE YOU LATER, MURDOCK. MEET ME AT AMERICOMP FOR A NEGOTIATION MEETING.
ROSALIND, I WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAGREE WITH YOU IN FRONT OF A CLIENT, BUT I DON'T THINK I'M THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THIS CASE.
BESIDES MY ALREADY TAXING WORKLOAD, CORPORATE HOCUS POCUS IS HARDLY MY AREA OF EXPERTISE.
I KNOW THAT, MATTHEW.
BUT GATZ WOULD ONLY ACCEPT A PARTNER FOR HIS COUNSEL, AND SINCE FRANKLIN IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A CHOICE, YOU'RE IT.

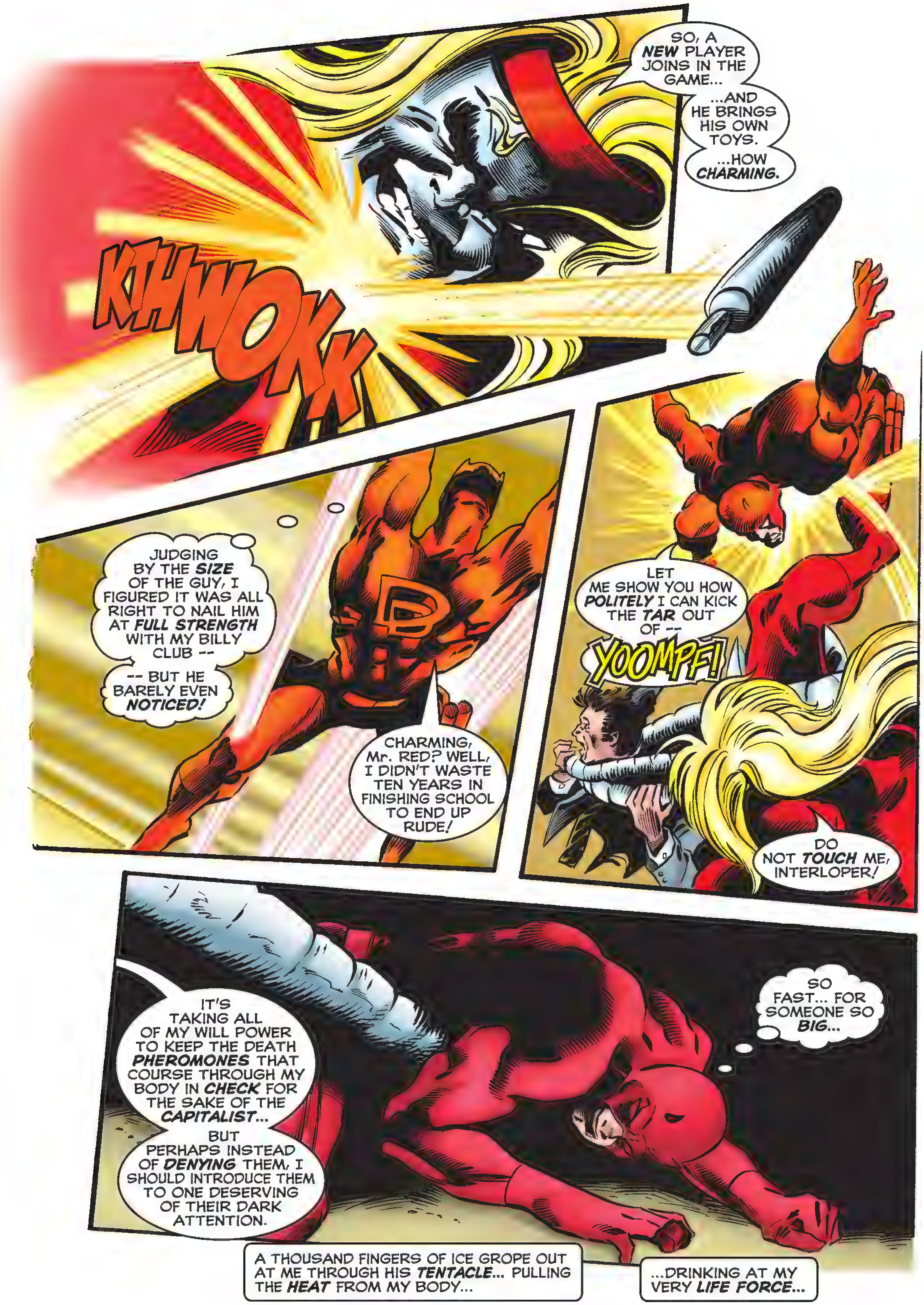

DON'T FRET, MATTHEW. YOU'LL HAVE THE WHOLE CORPORATE WING AT YOUR BECK AND CALL.
BUT WHY NOT YOU? I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE CHUMS FROM THE OLD DAYS.
WE WERE...BUT GATZ IS A "CHUM" FROM BOSTON.
POINT IN PRACTICE, I DON'T DO WORK IN BOSTON...
...OR FOR ANYONE WITH TIES TO BOSTON.
"I DON'T EVEN WEAR RED SOCKS. EVER. FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THE CITY DOESN'T EXIST. ARE WE CLEAR?"
ELSEWHERE: BRIGHTON BEACH, QUEENS. IN A NONDESCRIPT SHOP SPECIALIZING IN UKRAINIAN CURIOS...
<GATZ IS IN NEW YORK.>
<HE'S COME LOOKING FOR ALLIES.>
<I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT OUR MANEUVERS IN BOSTON WERE BENEATH NOTICE -->
<GENERAL, SIR... SOMEONE WARNED THE AMERICAN. THERE HAS BEEN A LEAK IN SECURITY. I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.>
<YOUR VERACITY IS NOTED, DAVIDOFF. YOU HAVE MY OATH THAT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION WITHIN TWO DAYS -->
<-- YOUR FAMILY WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR.>
<THANK YOU, SIR. I WILL NOT FAIL YOU.>
<I KNOW. IN THE MEANTIME...>
<...I SUGGEST THAT YOU USE SOME LOCAL TALENT TO SHAKE UP Mr. GATZ. SOMEONE LARGE...>
SAMOVAR
101
WHAT IS IT WITH THAT INFERNAL WOMAN AND BOSTON? IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY BETTER, I'D THINK SHE WAS FRIGHTENED OF SOMETHING...
BUT WHAT COULD PUT A SCARE INTO ROSALIND SHARPE?
ABOUT TEN YEARS OLD, ENERGETIC... AND HE'S GOT A GREAT SHEEN TO HIS COAT. WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?
FOGGY, I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT A PERSON HAS TO BE MISSING TO FILE A MISSING PERSON'S REPORT! A HUMAN PERSON!
DEUCE IS A BETTER FRIEND THAN MOST PEOPLE!


WELL THEN, MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE **CONSIDERED** THAT WHEN YOU BET HIM IN A **POKER GAME!**
I HAD A FLUSH! **NOTHING** BEATS A FLUSH... USUALLY...
There's that annual again! — Jaye
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE SOME **NON-PET-RELATED** CASES TO CLOSE!
STILL NO SIGN OF DEUCE, Huh, PAL?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE, MATT... SO YOUNG... SO LOYAL...
I'M SURE THAT Mr. WEASEL IS TAKING GOOD CARE OF DEUCE... I MEAN, AS GOOD AS A GUY NAMED WEASEL CAN.
YOU'RE NOT **HELPING.**
LATER... AFTER A QUICK CHANGE OF **D'APPAREL,** JUST OUTSIDE OF THE **AMERICOMP OFFICES...**
POOR FOGGY. HE'S REALLY BROKEN UP ABOUT LOSING THAT **DOG!**
MAYBE WHEN THINGS SETTLE DOWN A BIT, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN **SCROUNGE** UP ON THIS **WEASEL** FELLOW.
BUT AT THE MOMENT, TIME TO SWITCH BACK INTO MY **LAWYER DUDS** AND TOE THE LINE FOR ROSALIND'S **PAL.**
WITH ANY LUCK, MY **HYPER-SENSES** WILL GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO DECIPHER **CORPORATE-SPEAK** WITHOUT POPPING A **VESSEL.**

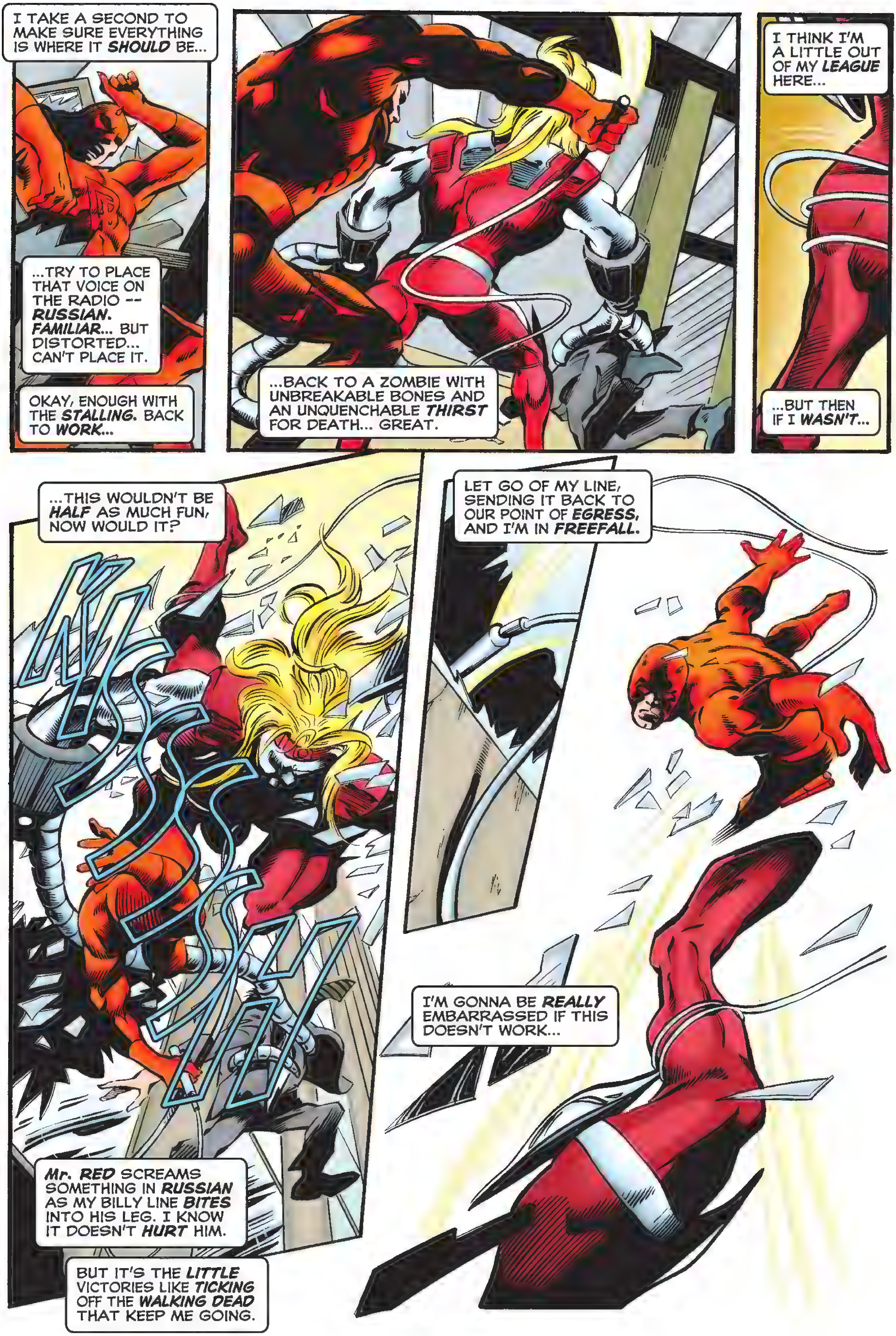

FIRST I'LL JUST TAKE A SEC TO SCAN THE AREA WITH MY RADAR SENSE --
-- MAKE SURE NO UNWITTING **SUNBATHER** HAS TAKEN REFUGE UP HERE ABOVE THE SMOG FOR --
WHOOPS! **WHIRLYBIRD** CLOSING IN AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.
IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T DO FOR SOME **FLYBOY** TO SEE ME IN MY **SKIVVIES** --
FUTFUT FUTFUT FUTFUT
THE **ENGINE** ON THAT THING SOUNDS **SHIELDED...** ALMOST RUNNING **SILENT.** A **MILITARY** CHOPPER?
A LITTLE DEEP INTO THE CITY FOR MILITARY MANEUVERS, NO?
AND THAT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A **FORTUNE 500 POWERBROKER** --
SMASH
I THINK GATZ'S **COMPETITORS** HAVE JUST REDEFINED **"HOSTILE TAKEOVER."**

I KNEW GATZ WAS CONCERNED ABOUT MORE THAN JUST THIS MEETING.
SCORE ONE FOR HYPER-SENSITIVITY AND IMPECCABLE INSTINCTS. YAY ME.
I JUST HOPE I CAN RENEGOTIATE THE TERMS OF THIS LITTLE MEET-AND-GREET BEFORE GATZ TAKES A KILLING IN THE MARKET!
BUT HOW DO YOU PLAY BALL...
...WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN DROP THROUGH FOUR FLOORS OF REINFORCED STEEL...
...COMPLETELY UNSCATHED?
MAYBE I'LL CALL THE PENCIL PUSHERS IN CORPORATE... YEAH... THAT'LL HELP...


SN&M.
FETCH, BOY ⋟SNIFF⋞ FETCH...
AHEM...
Uh-Oh, HI ROSALIND! SORRY, REAL BUSY NOW... WHERE WAS THAT PHONE...
FRANKLIN, PLEASE. YOU'RE **EMBARRASSING** YOURSELF.
⋟SIGH⋞ I WANTED TO OFFER MY **CONDOLENCES...**
...FOR THE LOSS OF YOUR **CANINE COMPANION.**
REALLY?
NO. NOT ONE BIT. BUT I THOUGHT THAT IF I SHOWED SOME **PARENTAL CONCERN...**
...YOU MIGHT GET OFF YOUR **CORPULENT BUTT...**
...AND START **WORKING.**
INSTEAD, I HAVE TO RESORT TO THE OLD **STANDBY** OF WITHHOLDING **FOOD.**
LADIES AND GENTS! THIS IS THE PART WHERE I TELL YOU ALL TO STAY **CALM** AND PROCEED TO THE NEAREST **EXIT --**
-- SO I'D **APPRECIATE** IT IF YOU DIDN'T TRAMPLE THE **CIVIC-MINDEDNESS** OUT OF ME... THANKS, **BUH-BYE.**
WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, YOU AND I. SAY WHAT I **WANT** TO HEAR, AND YOU MAY **LIVE** TO HAVE OTHER...
...LESS DIRE CONVERSATIONS.
FAIL... AND KNOW THE COLD EMBRACE... OF **OMEGA RED!**
⋟GAK⋞
RULE NUMBER ONE, UGLY -- YOU'LL NEVER BE INVITED TO THE **COMPANY PICNIC** BY CHOKING AN INVITE OUT OF THE BOSS!


SO, A *NEW* PLAYER JOINS IN THE GAME...
...AND HE BRINGS HIS OWN TOYS.
...HOW *CHARMING.*
KTHWOKK
JUDGING BY THE *SIZE* OF THE GUY, I FIGURED IT WAS ALL RIGHT TO NAIL HIM AT *FULL STRENGTH* WITH MY BILLY CLUB --
-- BUT HE BARELY EVEN *NOTICED!*
CHARMING, Mr. RED? WELL, I DIDN'T WASTE TEN YEARS IN FINISHING SCHOOL TO END UP RUDE!
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW *POLITELY* I CAN KICK THE *TAR* OUT OF --
YOOMPF!
DO NOT *TOUCH* ME, INTERLOPER!
IT'S TAKING ALL OF MY WILL POWER TO KEEP THE DEATH *PHEROMONES* THAT COURSE THROUGH MY BODY IN *CHECK* FOR THE SAKE OF THE *CAPITALIST*...
BUT PERHAPS INSTEAD OF *DENYING* THEM, I SHOULD INTRODUCE THEM TO ONE DESERVING OF THEIR DARK ATTENTION.
SO FAST... FOR SOMEONE SO *BIG*...
A THOUSAND FINGERS OF ICE GROPE OUT AT ME THROUGH HIS *TENTACLE*... PULLING THE *HEAT* FROM MY BODY...
...DRINKING AT MY VERY *LIFE FORCE*...

REPLACING IT... WITH...
BLACK.
COLD.
NOTHINGNESS.
<OMEGA RED! SENSORS INDICATE YOU HAVE ENGAGED THE DEATH PHEROMONES!>
<THIS IS NOT PART OF THE AGREEMENT!>
<I AM ELIMINATING A MINOR COMPLICATION!>
<NO! YOU WILL FOLLOW THE PLAN TO THE LETTER! SECURE THE TARGET. NO COLLATERAL VICTIMS!>
<STRAY FROM THE OBJECTIVES, AND CONSIDER THE DEAL NULL AND VOID!>
<THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?>
DA.
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS, YOU WILL LEARN THE SWEET TASTE OF MY TOUCH, DEVIL... BUT FOR NOW...
...YOU WILL HAVE TO BE CONTENT WITH MERELY LOOKING AT DEATH'S DOOR WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH!
LIFE RUSHES BACK INTO MY BODY... I SWEAR I CAN HEAR A SLIGHT WOOSH.
SMASHING THROUGH OFFICE FURNITURE NEVER FELT SO GOOD.


I TAKE A SECOND TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS WHERE IT **SHOULD** BE...
...TRY TO PLACE THAT VOICE ON THE RADIO -- **RUSSIAN. FAMILIAR...** BUT DISTORTED... CAN'T PLACE IT.
OKAY, ENOUGH WITH THE **STALLING.** BACK TO **WORK...**
...BACK TO A ZOMBIE WITH UNBREAKABLE BONES AND AN UNQUENCHABLE **THIRST** FOR DEATH... GREAT.
I THINK I'M A LITTLE OUT OF MY **LEAGUE** HERE...
...BUT THEN IF I **WASN'T...**
...THIS WOULDN'T BE **HALF** AS MUCH FUN, NOW WOULD IT?
Mr. RED SCREAMS SOMETHING IN **RUSSIAN** AS MY BILLY LINE **BITES** INTO HIS LEG. I KNOW IT DOESN'T **HURT** HIM.
BUT IT'S THE **LITTLE** VICTORIES LIKE **TICKING** OFF THE **WALKING DEAD** THAT KEEP ME GOING.
LET GO OF MY LINE, SENDING IT BACK TO OUR POINT OF **EGRESS,** AND I'M IN **FREEFALL.**
I'M GONNA BE **REALLY** EMBARRASSED IF THIS DOESN'T WORK...

MY REP IS UNSULLIED FOR ANOTHER DAY. SWEET VIBRATO AS MY LINE PULLS TAUT --
THUNGG
-- AND A CYMBAL CRASH AS TWO HUNDRED POUNDS OF ME COLLIDES WITH A WHOLE LOT OF HIM.
AAAAHHH!
...PLEASE RETURN YOUR TRAYS TO THE UPRIGHT POSITION --
PARDON ME. 'SCUSE ME. PARDON ME --
Mr. GATZ! THANK YOU FOR PLUMMETING WITH RED DEVIL AIRLINES...
SORRY, BUT THE 'NO SCREAMING' SIGN HAS BEEN ACTIVATED... THANK YOU.
WE HOPE YOU'VE ENJOYED YOUR VERTICAL TOUR OF THE UNFRIENDLY SKIES... PREPARE FOR LANDING...
...WE APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE FOR ANY TURBULENCE --
KRUNKSSH

AGREEMENT OR *NOT*, DEVIL, YOU DIE BY MY HAND NOW!
GATZ IS ALL RIGHT. ONE CRACKED RIB, I THINK. DON'T SENSE ANYTHING ELSE...
...BUT THEN I'M A LITTLE *DISTRACTED*...
KABLAMMM
MY TEETH GNASH INVOLUNTARILY AS THE CANNON BLAST ECHOES OFF OF EVERYTHING.
WHICH IS SMALL POTATOES COMPARED TO ACTUALLY BEING THE CANNON'S *TARGET*, I SUPPOSE, SO I'M NOT *COMPLAINING*.
MAYBE *CODE: BLUE* HAS FINALLY GOTTEN THEIR *ACT* TOGETHER --
I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER TO CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR...
...QUICK... RESPONSE...
...TIME?
WHOA.
CPW 113

IF I COULD **SEE**, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE MY **EYES**...
...HAVE A HARD **ENOUGH** TIME BELIEVING MY **HYPER-SENSES.** BUT THE STEADY **STACCATO** HEARTBEAT...
...THE SCENT OF **CURRANTS** AND **GUN OIL**...
...THE WHIPPING OF **WILD HAIR** IN THE CITY **GUSTS**...
...IT'S THE **BLACK WIDOW**, ALRIGHT... AND I HARDLY RECOGNIZE HER.
SINCE THE LOSS OF THE **AVENGERS** DURING **ONSLAUGHT**, NATASHA'S BEEN WALKING A **TIGHTROPE** BETWEEN THE LIGHT...
...AND SOMETHING MUCH **DARKER.**
PSCHOWW
LOOKS LIKE THE ROPE FINALLY **SNAPPED.**
NATASHA! WAIT!

WHOA THERE, PRETTY LADY!
I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE ASSIST... BUT A SLIGHTLY SINGED RUSSIAN MONSTER IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL, DON'T YOU THINK?
NO. I DO NOT.
HOW MANY TIMES ARE WE GOING TO LET THESE VILLAINS LIVE, ONLY TO WATCH THEM KILL AGAIN?
HAS IT TRULY HAPPENED? HAS NATASHA GONE SO FAR -- NO, I WON'T BELIEVE IT!
WE CAN'T STOOP TO THEIR LEVEL, NATASHA! I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING, BUT --
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DAREDEVIL. YOU CANNOT DISSUADE ME.
YOU CANNOT "AMERICAN DREAM" ME INTO LETTING THIS ONE GO.
NOW MOVE... OR DIE.
NO. YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS... I KNOW YOU.
DO I?
THE SOUND OF THE TENDONS IN HER FOREARM TIGHTENING...
BOOM
...TEARS ACROSS MY HEART LIKE A KNIFE. BUT I STILL WON'T BELIEVE...

THAT'S ONE NASTY **PEASHOOTER** YOU GOT THERE, WIDOW. SURPRISED YOUR **AIM** ISN'T BETTER --
LEAVE **NOW,** DEVIL, BEFORE YOU RUIN **EVERYTHING!**
BUT WE HAVE SO MUCH TO **CATCH UP** ON! YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, WHERE YOU GOT YOUR NEW *"DO"* --
-- AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO USE HARDCORE **MILITARY ORDNANCE.**
WE BOTH KNOW YOU **MISSED** ME ON **PURPOSE...**
...SO WHY DON'T YOU **GIVE** IT UP BEFORE I FORGET WE'RE **PALS** AND HAVE TO GET ALL **MEDIEVAL** ON YOU IN FRONT OF THE **PAPARAZZI!**
SO MANY OF THEM, TOO! NATASHA'S CHANGE OF HEART IS GOING TO BE PLASTERED ALL OVER THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS --
-- HOW'D THEY GET HERE SO **QUICKLY?**
KTHOK
WHATEVER WE HAD, **DAREDEVIL...** CONSIDER IT **DEAD** WITH THE **REST** OF THE HEROES!
LEAVE ME TO MY **WORK...** LEST YOU WOULD SUFFER THE **CONSEQUENCES.**
THAT WAS NO LOVE TAP. SHE'S SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING ME OUT OF THE **PICTURE** SO SHE CAN FINISH OFF **TENTACLE BOY** --
-- STILL... I CAN'T -- I WON'T BELIEVE --

DAREDEVIL, PLEASE... I *KNOW* WHAT I'M DOING.
THAT'S WHAT I'M *AFRAID* OF, NATASHA.
ZZZASCH
EVEN THOUGH THIS OMEGA RED CHARACTER IS A TOUGH *CUSTOMER*...
...NO ONE'S GOING TO PUT HIM DOWN LIKE A *DOG* WHILE I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
OUCH. I BET THAT DIDN'T TICKLE -- WHAT'S SHE DOING? IS SHE PULLING A *GUN?*
THAT MONSTER IS ESCAPING. YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT YOU'VE SET IN MOTION...
...I HAVE A *MISSION*... AND I WILL *EXECUTE* THAT MISSION...
...NO MATTER *WHO* I'VE TO STOP.
I'D RATHER SEE ONE VILLAIN GO FREE...
...THAN WATCH YOU BECOME A MURDERER. IF YOU REALLY *CAN'T GET* THAT...
...IF YOU'RE NO LONGER THE WOMAN I CALL *FRIEND*...
...THEN PULL THE *TRIGGER.*

AS YOU WISH.
BLAM
I HEAR THE AIR SHRED IN THE LEAD'S PATH... BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT...
...UNTIL I FEEL FIRE PIERCE MY RIBS AND SHOCK KISS MY SPINE...
...RIGHT ABOUT THEN...
...I'M A BELIEVER.
KAREN...
...DON'T BE ANGRY, HONEY...
...I'M GOING TO BE...
...A LITTLE LATE...
...FOR DINNER...
...
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
NOV #369
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLY
OLIVETTI
BRITO
AND YOU THOUGHT THE COLD WAR WAS OVER?
THINK AGAIN!

NIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY...
...WHERE ONE CAN BE THE LONELIEST NUMBER...
...ESPECIALLY AT A TABLE FOR TWO.
DEEP BREATH, K... THERE'S ALWAYS THE MICROWAVE. SO WHAT IF HE'S LATE...
...SO WHAT IF I'M FREEZING MY BUTT OFF IN THIS COMPLETELY NON-FUNCTIONAL, SEXIST HANDKERCHIEF WITH STRAPS?
YEAH, SO WHAT?
FORGET THIS. FIVE MINUTES AND I'M PUTTING ON MY SWEATS.
HE WANTS SEXY, HE CAN LEAF THROUGH THE CATALOGUE I ORDERED THIS STUPID THING FROM.
WHAT'LL IT BE THIS TIME? RAZOR SHARPE DUMPING EXTRA HOURS ON HIM...
...OR A BANK ROBBER HE JUST HAD TO STOP FROM LOOTING A QUIK-E-MART...
I KNOW, STILT-MAN...
KNOK
Ah... TAKING THE MODEST ROUTE, ARE WE? MUST BE TOUGH TO SWING THROUGH A WINDOW WITH ONE'S TAIL BETWEEN ONE'S LEGS.
SINCE I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME, MISTER SUPER-HYPER-SENSES-HERO... LET ME TELL YOU --
-- THAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DOZEN ROSES AND A BIG FAT EXCUSE FOR WHY I SAT HERE FOR TWO HOURS DRESSED LIKE A TRAMP --

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
WIDOW'S KISS
PART 2
JOE KELLY WRITER
ARIEL OLIVETTI GUEST PENCILER
PIER BRITO GUEST INKER
IAN LAUGHLIN COLOR
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
-- YOU'RE DEAD..?
Oh MY GOD... WHAT HAPPENED?
I SHOT HIM. NOW WOULD YOU KINDLY INVITE US IN?
HE'S DRIPPING IN YOUR HALLWAY.

BRIGHTON BEACH, A SMALL CURIO SHOP SPECIALIZING IN RUSSIAN IMPORTS...
THIS WAS THE ASTONISHING SCENE EARLIER TODAY WHEN THE FORMER AVENGER, BLACK WIDOW...
...SHOT AND APPARENTLY KILLED THE COSTUMED CRIME-FIGHTER KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL...
SO... THE WIDOW HAS SPUN HER DEADLY WEB OVER THE DAREDEVIL...
THIS IS... MOST UNEXPECTED.
AND MOST CONVENIENT, GENERAL TSKAROV...
...THEN TOOK HIS BODY TO PARTS UNKNOWN. THE AVENGERS' PRESS AGENT WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR COMMENT...
I CAN REACH HER. WE HAVE A PAST... SHE'S FALLEN.
TRUE. FALLEN SO FAR... SO FAR...
...OR IS IT TOO FAR, DAVIDOFF... TOO CONVENIENT?
SHE IS IDEAL FOR OUR NEEDS, GENERAL. HER LEADERSHIP AND TACTICAL ABILITIES, COMBINED WITH OUR SOON TO BE REUNITED COMRADES...
...THE POWER AT YOUR DISPOSAL WILL BE GLORIOUS!
YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS NOTED, DAVIDOFF... BUT REMEMBER, SHE IS NOT CALLED THE WIDOW WITHOUT REASON...
...I WOULD RECOMMEND A PROLONGED COURTSHIP BEFORE YOU RUSH INTO THE MARRIAGE.
BRING HER HERE TONIGHT.

I DON'T *FEEL* LIKE I'M ASLEEP.
TOO *REAL.*
JUST A KISS, DARLING... A KISS...
...A *SWEET* WIDOW'S KISS.
FROM THAT DISTANCE... I SMELLED HER... ALL OF HER...
...SHE WAS AT *HOME* IN MY *SENSES...*
...I MUST HAVE KNOWN WHAT WAS COMING.
BUT I DIDN'T *BELIEVE* IT.
EVEN WHEN HER *FOREARM* MADE A NOISE LIKE LEATHER PULLING TIGHT. *TENDON* CONTRACTED. METAL *FELL* INTO PLACE...
PWAMM
...KICK OF *SULFUR* AS THE CARTRIDGE *EJECTED...* I WAS SO SHOCKED, I FORGOT HOW *GOOD* A SHOT SHE WAS...
...THOUGHT SHE WAS *KIDDING...* TILL I FELT THE *BURN.*
*NATASHAA*AARGH!
Oh *MATT!* I'M SORRY I HURT YOU...

I... *NATASHA,* SHE --
SHE SAID THE BULLET *TUNNELED* UNDER THE SKIN, OUT THROUGH YOUR *SHOULDER,* BUT NOTHING'S *BADLY* DAMAGED.
ALCOHOL'S ALL I HAVE FOR THE *INFECTION.* SORRY --
SHE *SHOT* ME. SHE REALLY *DID* IT.
MATTHEW MURDOCK! YOU LIE *RIGHT* BACK DOWN! THE ONLY PLACE YOU'RE GOING IS TO A *HOSPITAL* AS SOON AS -- *MATT!*
NGGH!
THAT WAS... A REAL STUPID IDEA... WASN'T IT?
DUH. YOU'VE LOST SOME *BLOOD,* SHE SAID. BUT SHE PATCHED YOU UP *PRETTY* GOOD --
SHE DID... *WHY?*
GOOD QUESTION. I'LL BE SURE TO ASK HER NEXT TIME WE PLAY BRIDGE.
I'M GOING TO *RE-DRESS* THAT WOUND, AND THEN YOU AND I ARE GOING STRAIGHT TO THE *HOSPITAL,* MATT.
MIND CONTROL..? AGAINST HER *WILL..?*
MATTHEW! DO *NOT* GET IT INTO YOUR HEAD THAT YOU'RE GOING TO RUN OFF AFTER THAT *WOMAN!*
DAREDEVIL HAS THE REST OF THE NIGHT *OFF!* DO YOU HEAR ME?
NATASHA'S A TRAINED *ASSASSIN...* IF SHE'D REALLY WANTED TO, SHE COULD HAVE *KILLED* ME... SO WHY *SAVE* ME?
CLIK
Oh, NATASHA... WHAT *HAPPENED* TO YOU?

ACROSS TOWN, IN A HALF-LIT ALLEY.
NATASHA ROMANOVA DOES HER BEST TO AVOID ASKING HERSELF THE SAME QUESTION...
IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE COMPLICATION. IMPROVISED. A GOOD SOLDIER... A SUCCESSFUL SOLDIER, IMPROVISES.
I'M AN EXCELLENT SOLDIER. IN A SERIOUS WAR.
UNFORTUNATE THAT OMEGA RED ESCAPED. MY RESPONSIBILITY, BUT FOR ANOTHER TIME. OTHERWISE...
...INTEGRITY OF MISSION UNCOMPROMISED...
...OBSTACLE ELIMINATED. GOOD SOLDIER. GOOD --
...
CURSE YOU, MATTHEW...
EXCUSE ME, DAME ROMANOVA...
...I BELIEVE YOU GAVE ME A CALL? IT IS A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SHALL WE?
THE GENERAL IS ANXIOUS TO FINALLY MEET YOU.

AFTER WE CLEAN YOUR WOUND OUT, I'LL GET YOU SOME *CIVILIAN* CLOTHES --
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*
FIXING UP MY *THREADS,* K.
WOULDN'T DO FOR MY *IMAGE* TO GO SWINGING AROUND NEW YORK LOOKING LIKE A *RAGMUFFIN.*
THAT'S A *JOKE,* HONEY.
SURE. *HA-HA.* IN CASE YOU MISSED IT BEFORE, YOU ARE NOT --
-- *N-O-T* -- GOING OUT THERE TO FIND THAT *PSYCHOPATH.*
KAREN, *PLEASE...* NATASHA WOULDN'T HAVE DONE WHAT SHE *DID* IF SHE WASN'T IN *TROUBLE* --
I DON'T GIVE A *FLYING FIG* IF *DOCTOR DOOM'S* ABOUT TO RIP OUT HER TWISTED LITTLE *SPINE* --!
YOU ARE STAYING RIGHT HERE!
MATTHEW... I PUT UP WITH A LOT AS DAREDEVIL'S WOMAN. I DO SO WITHOUT *QUESTION MOST* OF THE TIME.
BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU NEED TO GET TO A *HOSPITAL* WHERE YOU CAN BE TAKEN *CARE* OF.
IF THE WIDOW IS *TOUGH* ENOUGH TO BLOW A *HOLE* IN YOUR CHEST, SHE'S TOUGH ENOUGH TO FEND FOR *HERSELF.*

NOW, I'M GOING TO COUNT TO **THREE.** WHEN I **GET** THERE, I'M GOING TO **TURN** AROUND, AND SEE **YOU,** COAT IN HAND, READY TO GO TO THE ER.
IF I **DON'T...**
...WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A **PROBLEM.**
KAREN, PLEASE... **DON'T** DO --
ONE...
TWO...
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS **WORSE...**
...THE **ENCYCLOPEDIA** OF **ACHES** AND **PAINS** SHREDDING ACROSS MY BODY EVERY TIME I EVEN **THINK** ABOUT TAKING A DEEP BREATH...
...OR THE FACT THAT **KAREN** IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT, INCONTROVERTIBLY **RIGHT...**
...AND I JUST WALKED **OUT** ON HER.

BUT WHETHER THE WIDOW HAS GONE OVER THE EDGE, OR IS ACTING AGAINST HER WILL...
...I CAN'T SIT BY AND JUST ***WATCH*** THINGS HAPPEN... NOT TO A ***FRIEND.***
NATASHA'S APARTMENT IS PROBABLY THE ***LAST*** PLACE I SHOULD LOOK FOR HER. CHANCES ARE SHE DIDN'T ***SWING*** BY FOR A ***SNACK*** AFTER ***PERFORATING*** ME...
...BUT ONE NEVER ***KNOWS.*** MAYBE SHE GOT ***SLOPPY*** AND LEFT BEHIND A ***CLUE*** --
--OR ***TEN? WHOA.***
VIBRATIONS COMING THROUGH NATASHA'S ***WINDOWS*** PAINT THE PICTURE FOR ME...
...THE BLACK WIDOW'S GOT A LOT MORE THAN DEAD ***BUGS*** WAITING FOR HER BACK AT THE ***WEB.***
HEAR THE NAME ***S.H.I.E.L.D.*** BANDIED ABOUT A FEW TIMES, AND EVEN A ***BLIND MAN*** FIGURES OUT WHO'S COME TO ***DINNER.***
HELLO, ***THICKENING PLOT.***

HAVE TO FOCUS. BLOCK OUT THE BACKGROUND NOISE OF THE CITY AND TRY TO PICK UP WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...
LUCKILY, AT LEAST ONE OF THE G.I. JOES IS CLOSE ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET BOTH SIDES OF THE CONVERSATION...
YES, COMMANDER DUGAN, SIR -- HER TRACER HAS BEEN DEACTIVATED SO AS NOT TO ALERT ANYONE --
WHAT? YOU SENT HER TO BRIGHTON WITHOUT A TRACKER? WHAT ABOUT BACKUP?
N-NO, SIR... SHE INSISTED. Um... SHE ALSO SHOOK OUR TAILING UNIT --
WHAT?! @#$%^&*!
BRIGHTON BEACH? LITTLE ODESSA, PERHAPS? BIG COMMUNITY OF SOVIET IMMIGRANTS... AND OMEGA RED HAD A RUSSIAN ACCENT...
BRIGHTON BEACH. BINGO.
THANKS, BOYS. REMIND ME TO TELL YOU THE ONE ABOUT NICK FURY'S TRICK CIGAR AT THE NEXT S.H.I.E.L.D. POKER NIGHT --
WHA--? I --
DIZZY... CAN'T MAINTAIN FOOTING -- I -- WHOA!
MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO THE BEACH...
Oh BOY...

GOD DON'T MAKE LONELY GIRRRRLS...
DA DA DA... DA DADA IN THIS WORRLD --
OFF DUTY
SLAM
HEY BUDDY, DON'T BREAK MY SHOES! I'M ONNA DINNER BREAK! CAN'T YOU READ THE SIGN?
SORRY... MY EYES AREN'T SO GOOD SOMETIMES.
HOLEE CARP.
MEANWHILE, BENEATH THE GENERAL'S INNOCUOUS-LOOKING SAMOVAR SHOP...
ARE YOU IN PAIN... MY DARK FLOWER?
YOU CAN END IT, RIGHT NOW... JUST GIVE OF YOURSELF. SHARE YOUR GIFTS WILLINGLY, AS THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY HAS --
AND THIS METAL BEAST WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY. PLEASE...
LET ME STOP THE HURTING.

GENERAL, SIR? SHE'S HERE.
EXCUSE ME, DARLING... I MUST GO ENTERTAIN YOUR REPLACEMENT.
I PRAY THAT SHE FARES BETTER ON THE INTERVIEW THAN YOU DID.
THREE CAMERAS... TWO HIDDEN MIKES, INFRA-RED... CERTAINLY MORE, BUT I CAN'T LOOK LIKE I'M LOOKING --
TIGHT SECURITY FOR A CURIO SHOP.
THIS IS NEW YORK. ONE CAN NEVER BE TOO CAREFUL.
Ms. ROMANOVA, THE MAN I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU ABOUT. GENERAL TSKAROV.
THE SNOW WOLF? YOU KEEP IMPRESSIVE COMPANY THESE DAYS, DAVIDOFF. I'M HONORED.
NOT AS MUCH AS I, FAIR ONE.
INDEED, YOU ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN YOU ARE DEADLY...
I THINK YOU HAVE IT BACKWARDS, GENERAL. IN FACT, I KNOW YOU DO.
CAN WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS?
OF COURSE, ALWAYS THE FOCUSED ONE. PLEASE, SIT. THERE ARE OTHERS WE MUST WAIT FOR...
OTHERS?
YES... BUT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCUSS THEM LATER. FOR NOW... TALK TO ME ABOUT DAREDEVIL.

I'M CLOSE... THE **HACK** WAS FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO GET ME WITHIN A FEW BLOCKS OF WHERE I NEEDED TO BE.
AROMA OF UKRANIAN COOKING TICKLES MY NOSE. SHARDS OF A MELODY WRITTEN FROM SOMEWHERE BEHIND THE **FORMER** IRON CURTAIN REACH MY EARS... **SOLID** ETHNIC NEIGHBORHOOD.
IF THINGS WEREN'T SO TWISTED RIGHT NOW, I'D REALLY ENJOY THIS LITTLE TOUR DE SENSES... RIGHT AFTER A **WEEK** IN BED AND TEN POUNDS OF ASPIRIN.
NATASHA.
FEET SPRING OFF OF ALUMINUM, AND THE **RECOIL** SENDS FIRE UP THROUGH MY **CHEST**, WAKING ME UP A BIT. I'M GONNA **NEED** IT...
FOCUSING NOW, **BLOODHOUND** MODE, SEARCHING FOR ANY **TRACE** OF NATASHA...
HAVE TO **EXTEND** MY SENSES TO THE LIMIT, AND TRUST THAT MY MIND CAN WEATHER THE STORM OF **SENSATIONS** CRASHING IN LONG ENOUGH TO FIND THE RIGHT **BUOY**...
...THE SCENT BURNED INTO MY **MEMORY**... ONE I USED TO CONSIDER A **SAFE HAVEN**...
MARIE
SHE'S BEEN HERE. RECENTLY. SMALL ENOUGH BUILDING. FINDING HER SHOULD BE A SNAP --
-- HOLD ON... SOUNDS ECHOING UP THROUGH THE **GROUND**... THERE'S SOMETHING BIG **BENEATH** ME... A GENERATOR? A **CAVERNOUS** STRUCTURE --
SOMETHING ELSE... **GUARD DOG?**

NICE *DOGGIE?*
FUNNY THING ABOUT CERTAIN ***NEW YORK NEIGHBORHOODS...***
...WHEN IT GETS ***DARK,*** THE PLACE TURNS INTO A ***ZOO.***
I MUST BE MORE BADLY ***WOUNDED*** THAN I THOUGHT. NOT ONLY *DIDN'T* I HEAR BOBO APPROACHING 'TIL THE LAST SECOND...

...BUT IF I DIDN'T **KNOW** ANY BETTER -- I'D SAY THAT UNDERNEATH THE FOREST **MUSK,** THIS FELLA SMELLS... **HUMAN...**
I MUST BE OUT OF MY **MIND** --
NICOLAI! HE'S COMING TO **YOU!**
REMOVE ALL HINTS OF **SARCASM** FROM THAT **LAST** THOUGHT. I'M **CERTIFIABLE.**
NICE TRICK, **GENTLE BENSKI!** CAN YOU RIDE ON A UNICYCLE AND JUGGLE **BORSCHT** TOO?
NOW!
Uh-Oh... **ANOTHER** HEARTBEAT -- SOMEONE **LUNGING** AT ME.
OFF BALANCE. **CAN'T** LEAP AWAY --

HOW 'BOUT A NICE ROLL, INSTEAD --?
WHOA! I SAID A LITTLE OFF THE TOP! THE TOP --
UNGHH!
STUPID MANEUVER. FORGOT ABOUT MY WOUND.
THE SKIN TEARS OPEN AS I LAND, AND I KNOW IT'S A MATTER OF SECONDS BEFORE MY LONG-JOHNS TAKE ON A DARKER HUE...
LUCKILY, I WON'T BE CONSCIOUS LONG ENOUGH TO CARE...
I'D SAY THAT HIS GRIP IS LIKE STEEL, BUT EVEN FOR THAT CLASSIC CLICHÉ...
...I DON'T...
... HAVE...
... THE...
... BREATH...
...

DAVIDOFF TELLS ME THAT YOUR LAST *DANCE* WITH THE DEVIL HAS LEFT YOU IN *TROUBLE* OF A SORT.
CERTAIN PLANS... HAVE GONE AWRY, GENERAL...
... BUT IT'S NOTHING THAT I CAN'T *HANDLE*--
IF THAT WERE *TRUE,* DEAR LADY, I DARE SAY WE WOULD NOT BE *HAVING* THIS CONVERSATION.
YOUR UNIT WAS OBLITERATED DURING THE ONSLAUGHT, EARTH'S *MIGHTIEST HEROES* KILLED ON YOUR WATCH.
THEN, A SLOW *DESCENT* INTO *VENGEANCE* FOR FALLEN COMRADES, BUT WHAT HATH THAT *WROUGHT?*
THE DEATH OF YOUR FORMER *LOVER...* DAREDEVIL... BY YOUR *OWN* HAND.
THAT *INCIDENT* WAS *UNFORTUNATE.*
HA! *UNFORTUNATE,* SHE SAYS! YOU ARE AS HEARTLESS AS YOUR NAMESAKE--
DO NOT *MOCK* MY PAIN, GENERAL.
DAREDEVIL WAS A *SUPERIOR* OPERATIVE... THERE WAS A *TIME*... WHEN HE WAS *MORE.*
THAT TIME IS GONE.
THERE CANNOT BE A *WAR* WITHOUT *COLLATERAL DAMAGE.* HE DIED BECAUSE HE BECAME *WEAK*... LIKE THE *REST* OF THE AVENGERS.
I AM *NOT.*
NOW, ARE WE *REHASHING* MY PAST RELATIONSHIPS, OR SHOULD WE TALK ABOUT *HAWKEYE* NEXT?
NO. THAT WON'T BE *NECESSARY.* IT IS TIME WE GOT DOWN TO *BUSINESS...*
... AND YOUR FELLOW *SOLDIERS* HAVE ARRIVED. ENTER, *COMRADES...*

"I BELIEVE THAT YOU ALL KNOW ONE ANOTHER FROM THE **GLORY DAYS** OF THE **KGB**...
"...NATASHA ROMANOVA, I PRESENT **MIKHAIL URSUS** AND **NICOLAI KRYLENKO**, OR AS THEY ARE MORE COMMONLY KNOWN IN OUR INTIMATE **CIRCLE**...
"...**URSA MAJOR**...
"...AND **VANGUARD**."
WITH ALL DUE **RESPECT** TO THE GENERAL AND Ms. ROMANOVA...
...I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AN **IDEAL** TIME FOR **REUNIONS**.
I SEE.
SO, **NATASHA**...
...YOUR LIFE HAS JUST BECOME EXTREMELY **INTERESTING, NYET?**

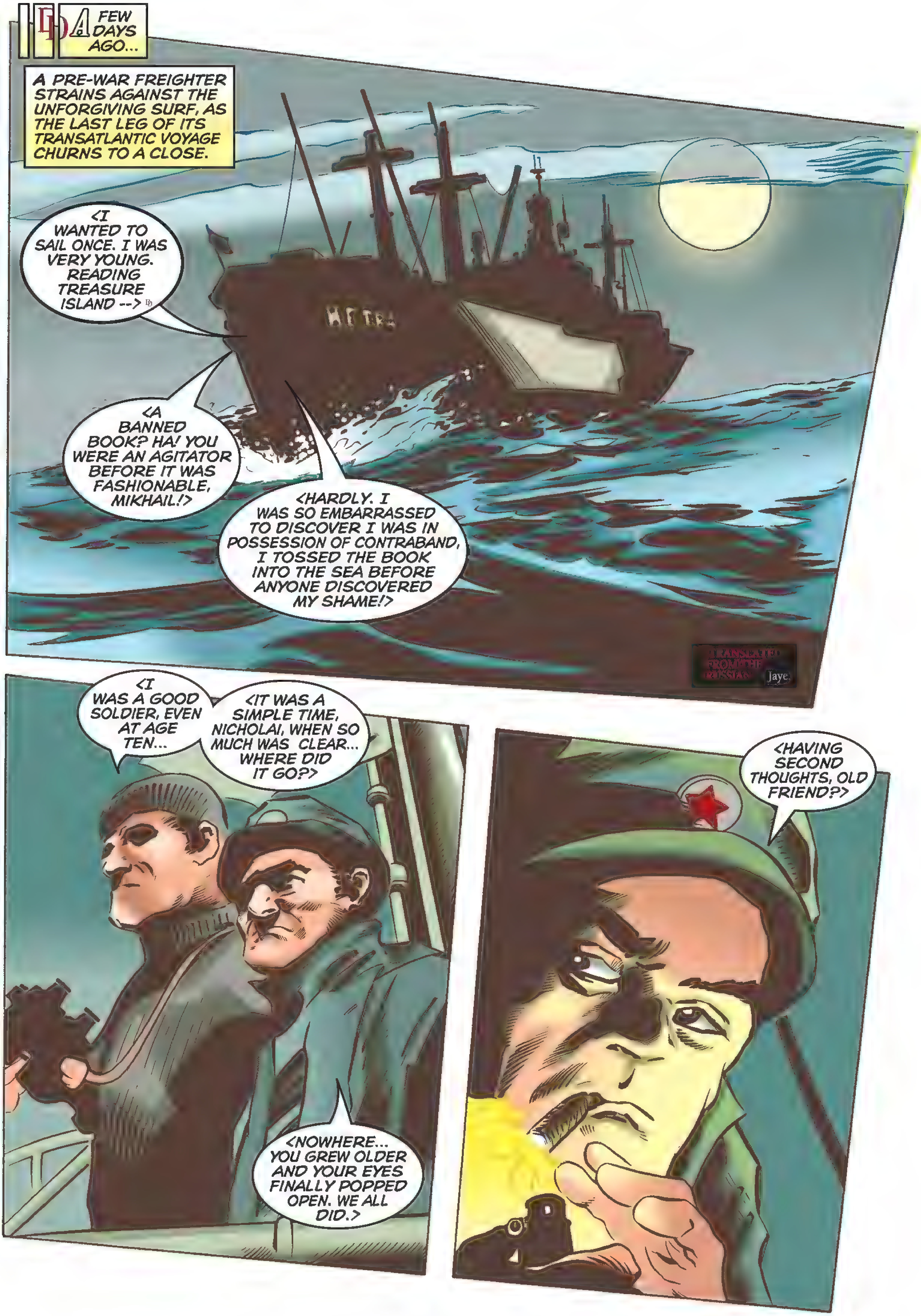
I LIKE IT HERE. COOL. NOTHING. WHISPER OF A BREEZE.
"DEVIL?"
CAN I STAY?
I'LL GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW...
WAKE UP! LISTEN TO ME!
FWAPP
WAS THAT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY? I'M ILL, YOU KNOW. LEAD POISONING --
ARE YOU LISTENING?
WHY DID YOU SHOOT ME?
SO I COULD KILL YOU.
WHY ELSE DOES ONE SHOOT?
STILL GROGGY... CAN'T TELL IF HER HEART IS SKIPPING BEATS... IF SHE'S LYING...
T-TAP TAP T-TAP
BUT GOD HELP ME... I DON'T THINK THAT SHE IS.

YOU WERE IN MY WAY... AND BECAUSE OF YOU, OMEGA RED ESCAPED.
FOR THAT... YOU SHOULD BE PUT DOWN LIKE A DOG.
T-TAP TAP T-TAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. NOT A SHRED OF REMORSE. SHE'S REALLY --
THAT TAPPING...
NATASHA'S RAPPING HER FINGERS EVER SO SLIGHTLY -- INAUDIBLE TO A HUMAN EAR, OR A MICROPHONE...
...BUT DRUMBEATS TO ME... A PATTERN... MORSE CODE...
...YOU GO, GIRL...
YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU, NATASHA?
YES.
NO, MATTHEW... I DON'T.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, NATASHA?
THERE IS NO MORE NATASHA... SHE DIED WITH THE REST OF THE AVENGERS.
SINCE ONSLAUGHT, WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. 'AVENGING AVENGER' ATTITUDE CONSTRUCT. RUSE TO GAIN ACCESS TO UNDERWORLD. TO TSKAROV.
COULDN'T TELL A SOUL.
HAVE TO MAKE THIS LOOK GOOD... CAN'T BLOW HER COVER.
Oh, TASHA... NO...
GENERAL IS EX-KGB. MUSCLING IN ON ORGANIZED CRIME. RUMORED TO HAVE VERY POWERFUL AGENTS AND WEAPON.
YOU MET AGENTS. MUST DISCOVER IF LOYAL... DESTROY WEAPON.

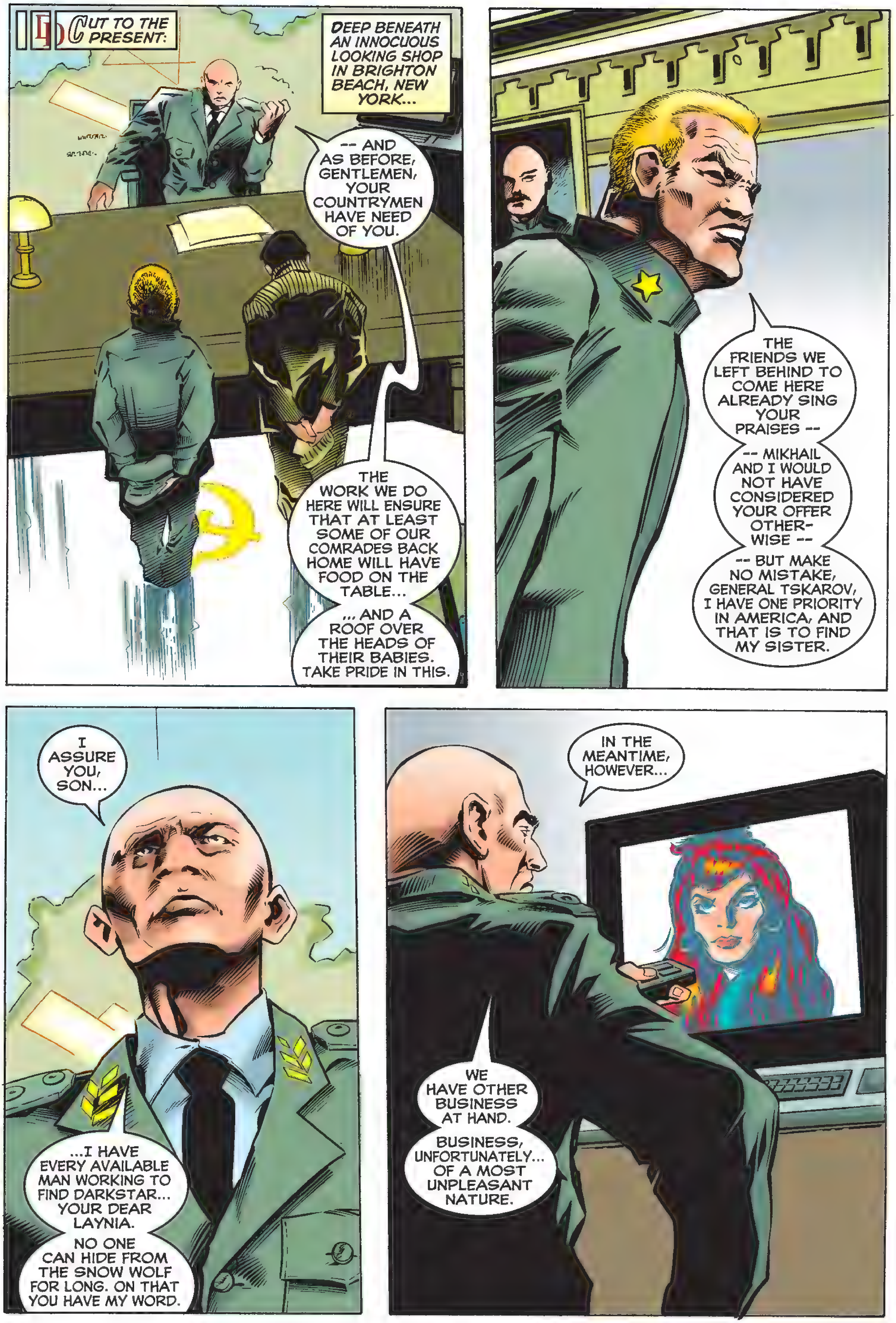
SO ALL YOU EVER SAID... EVER BELIEVED IN... YOU JUST GAVE THAT UP?
HOW CAN ONE SURVIVE ON FALSE DREAMS?
WAS WORKING WITH OMEGA RED WHEN YOU SHOWED UP. COERCED HIM. PLANNED ON FAKING HIS OWN DEATH. HAD TO IMPROVISE.
IMPROVISE? YOU SHOT ME, YOU --
TIRGENOV'S GAMBIT. OLD KGB TRICK. SHOOT PARTNER WITH SMALL CALIBER WEAPON. DEFLECT BULLET OFF OF RIBCAGE.
ENEMY THINKS PARTNER HAS TURNED ALLEGIANCES. PARTNER LIVES... IF THE SHOT IS CLEAN.
ONLY TWO PEOPLE EVER SURVIVED. YOU AND I.
EVEN IF SHE IS PLAYING A ROLE, THAT WAS AWFULLY RUTHLESS...
NATASHA... THIS COLDNESS... IT'S NOT YOU. YOU'RE STILL HURTING OVER THE OTHERS --
DON'T MENTION THEM! DON'T --
NO, I DO NOT MISS THEM.
NO... I DO NOT. SOLDIERS DIE. EVEN GOOD ONES.
DON'T MENTION THEM AGAIN, MATT, PLEASE.

NOT TO QUESTION YOUR JUDGMENT, GENERAL, BUT LOOK AT HER! LISTEN... SHE HAS TURNED!
SHE WAS MERELY MISTAKEN ABOUT THE DEVIL'S STATUS...
NATASHA ROMANOVA IS AN EXCELLENT ACTRESS. THE BEST. YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT.
YOU WOULD ALSO DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT IF YOU CHALLENGE ME AGAIN, YOUR TENURE ON THIS PLANET WILL COME TO AN ABRUPT END.
Y-YES, SIR...
ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THE WIDOW'S STATE OF MIND SHALL BE DISPELLED AFTER WE HAVE A PRIVATE SESSION TOGETHER...
...BUT EVEN IF SHE HAS BEEN SENT TO INFILTRATE OUR OPERATION, IT IS NO MATTER.
I NEED ONE MORE SOLDIER, AND SHE WILL BE IT. I CAN BE ESPECIALLY PERSUASIVE WHEN I CARE TO BE...
...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MY DARKSTAR?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
TO BE CONCLUDED IN 30!

MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
DEC
#370
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLY
COLAN
LaROSA
ALL-OUT ACTION ISSUE!
DD & THE BLACK WIDOW--™
SIDE-BY-SIDE AGAIN!


A FEW DAYS AGO...
A PRE-WAR FREIGHTER STRAINS AGAINST THE UNFORGIVING SURF, AS THE LAST LEG OF ITS TRANSATLANTIC VOYAGE CHURNS TO A CLOSE.
<I WANTED TO SAIL ONCE. I WAS VERY YOUNG. READING TREASURE ISLAND -->
<A BANNED BOOK? HA! YOU WERE AN AGITATOR BEFORE IT WAS FASHIONABLE, MIKHAIL!>
<HARDLY. I WAS SO EMBARRASSED TO DISCOVER I WAS IN POSSESSION OF CONTRABAND, I TOSSED THE BOOK INTO THE SEA BEFORE ANYONE DISCOVERED MY SHAME!>
TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN
Jaye.
<I WAS A GOOD SOLDIER, EVEN AT AGE TEN...
<IT WAS A SIMPLE TIME, NICHOLAI, WHEN SO MUCH WAS CLEAR... WHERE DID IT GO?>
<NOWHERE... YOU GREW OLDER AND YOUR EYES FINALLY POPPED OPEN. WE ALL DID.>
<HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, OLD FRIEND?>

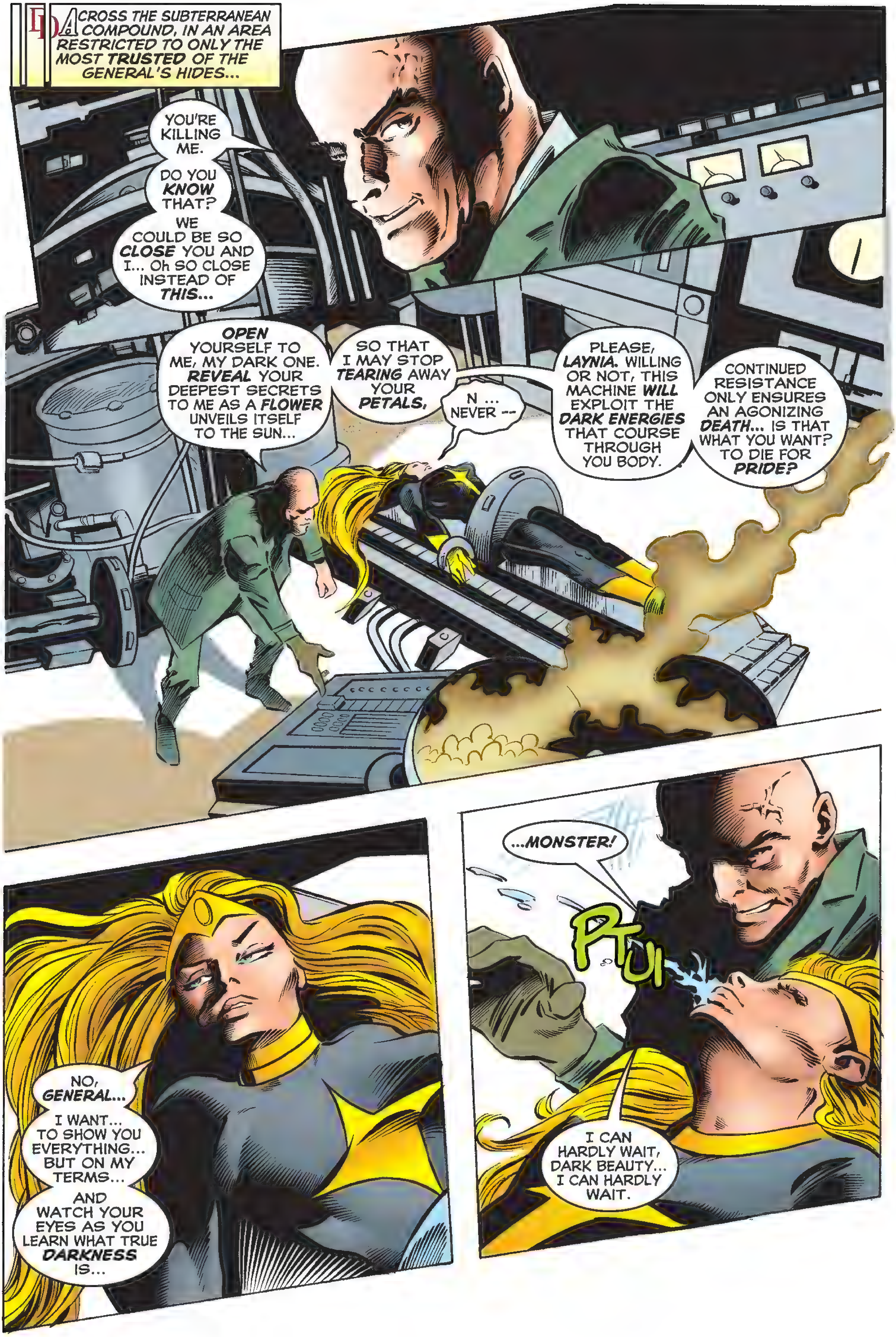
<NOT ABOUT THE GOALS OF OUR MISSION, NO...>
<BUT OUR METHODS... SHOULDN'T WE HAVE FOUND ANOTHER WAY?>
< YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, MIKHAIL.>
<THIS IS A FAMILY AFFAIR. I DO NOT WANT TO INVOLVE THE AMERICANS. THEY HAVE THEIR OWN MISSING HEROES TO CONTEND WITH.>
<SO YOU WOULD RATHER DEAL WITH THE DEVIL -->
<TSKAROV IS JUST A MAN! A MAN WITH THE INFLUENCE AND RESOURCES TO FIND MY SISTER.
<AS FOR HIS PAST... WE ALL HAVE HISTORY, MIKHAIL... I DON'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU OF WHAT WE DID UNDER THE K.G.B. -->
<YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU DON'T. SO TELL ME METHEN, WHAT MAKES THIS DIFFERENT?>
<THIS TIME, WE DON'T BLINDLY FOLLOW ORDERS. THIS TIME, WE KNOW THAT THE MONEY WE MAKE FROM TSKAROV GOES BACK TO OUR WAR TORN NATION WHERE IT IS NEEDED...>
<THIS TIME... IT IS FOR MY SISTER.>
<I DON'T KNOW, NICHOLAI... SOMETHING IN MY GUT -->
<A MAN THINKS WITH HIS BRAIN. AN ANIMAL HAS TO RELY ON INSTINCT... ALTHOUGH YOU, I SUPPOSE, HAVE THE LUXURY OF CHOOSING>
<SO THEN? WHAT DOES YOUR ANIMAL'S GUT TELL YOU?>
<-SIGH- FIVE ME ONE OF THOSE CIGARS... CUBAN'S ARE ILLEGAL IN THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE TO FINISH THEM.>
<SPACEBA OLD FRIEND... SPACEBA.>


CUT TO THE PRESENT:
DEEP BENEATH AN INNOCUOUS LOOKING SHOP IN BRIGHTON BEACH, NEW YORK...
-- AND AS BEFORE, GENTLEMEN, YOUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE NEED OF YOU.
THE WORK WE DO HERE WILL ENSURE THAT AT LEAST SOME OF OUR COMRADES BACK HOME WILL HAVE FOOD ON THE TABLE...
... AND A ROOF OVER THE HEADS OF THEIR BABIES. TAKE PRIDE IN THIS.
THE FRIENDS WE LEFT BEHIND TO COME HERE ALREADY SING YOUR PRAISES --
-- MIKHAIL AND I WOULD NOT HAVE CONSIDERED YOUR OFFER OTHERWISE --
-- BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, GENERAL TSKAROV, I HAVE ONE PRIORITY IN AMERICA, AND THAT IS TO FIND MY SISTER.
I ASSURE YOU, SON...
...I HAVE EVERY AVAILABLE MAN WORKING TO FIND DARKSTAR... YOUR DEAR LAYNIA.
NO ONE CAN HIDE FROM THE SNOW WOLF FOR LONG. ON THAT YOU HAVE MY WORD.
IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER...
WE HAVE OTHER BUSINESS AT HAND.
BUSINESS, UNFORTUNATELY... OF A MOST UNPLEASANT NATURE.

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
WIDOW'S KISS
CONCLUSION
JOE KELLY WRITER
GENE COLAN PENCILER
BUD LaROSA & HARRY CANDELARIO INKERS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
TOUGH TO SAY WHAT'S MAKING ME MORE UNCOMFORTABLE.
THE MUSTY FINGERS OF THE MILLION OR SO MILDEW SPORES CLAWING UP MY NOSTRILS...
...THE SEARCHING TAUNTS OF THE GUNSHOT WOUND, OBNOXIOUSLY REMINDING ME THAT I SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME...
...OR THE CHILLING SILENCE OF MY CELLMATE.
SO... DOES THIS MEAN THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A SECOND DATE?
...
WELL, I GUESS THAT PUTS AN END TO SAID QUANDARY... SILENCE IS THE WINNER.
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

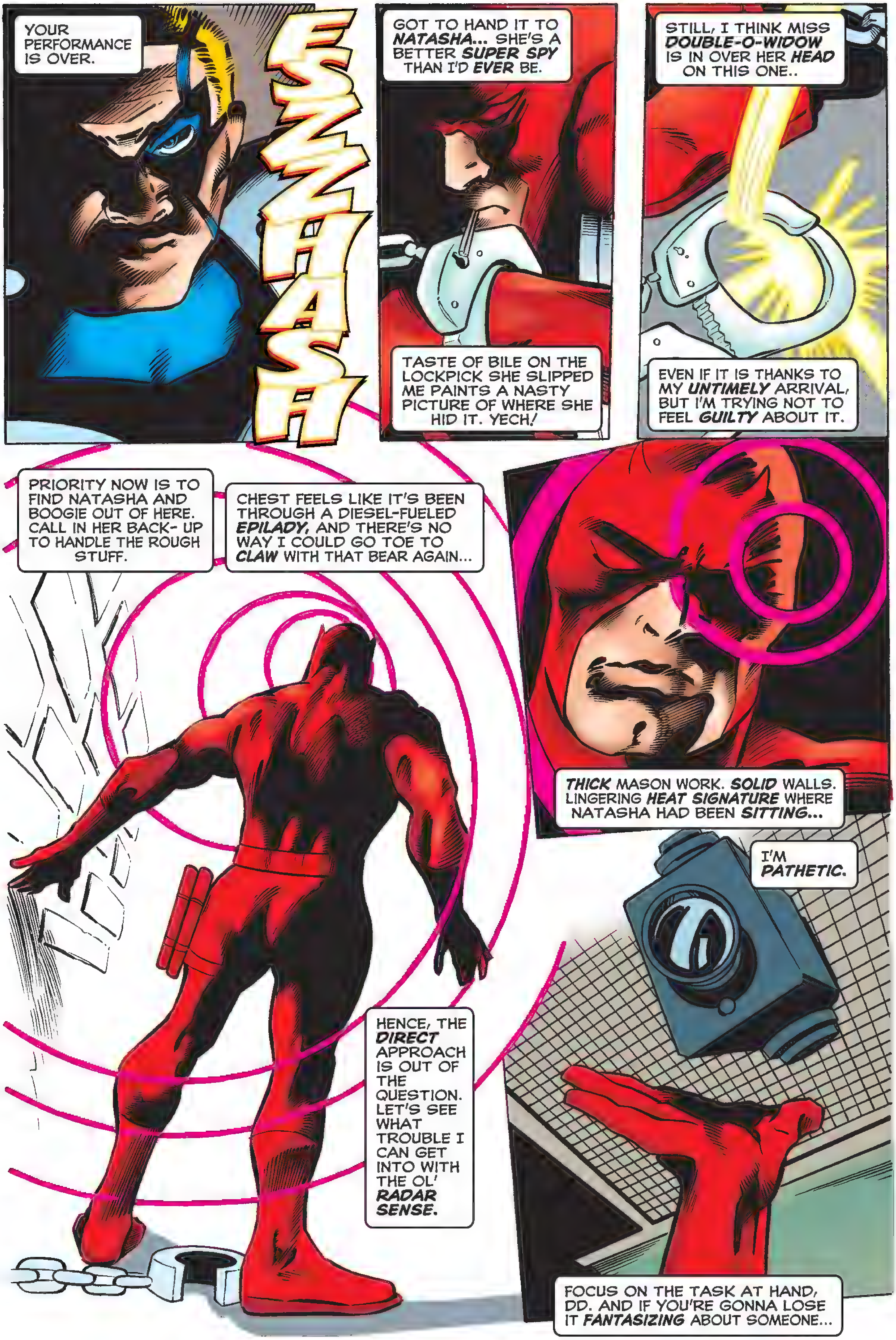
SUPPOSEDLY, SHE ACTING...
...MASTERFULLY PLAYING THE ROLE OF THE FALLEN HERO... THE CORRUPTED BLACK WINDOW...
IF ONLY SHE WASN'T DOING SUCH A STELLAR JOB OF IT, I'D FEEL A LOT MORE AT EASE...
...AND IN A LOT LESS PAIN.
SHE PLUGGED ME WITH A .22 AT CLOSE RANGE TO KEEP HER COVER INTACT FOR SOME RUSSIAN MOB BOSS...
STANISLAVSKI WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD, BUT I THINK SHE TOOK THE METHOD ACTING THING A TAD FAR.
SO NOW, WITH NOTHING BUT THE SILENCE BETWEEN US, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
DAM ROMANOVA...
HAS SHE GOTTEN TOO INVOLVED WITH HER ROLE TO PULL BACK? HAS THE WIDOW REALLY GONE OVER THE EDGE?
GENERAL TSKAROV REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE...
FOR A DISCUSSION OF LOYALTY.
I'M SURE HE WOULD, VANGUARD. ONE MOMENT...

FIRST... A FAREWELL...
PERHAPS THE LAST.
MMFF
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD, DEVIL?
TO KISS THE BLACK WIDOW IS TO KISS DEATH...
...AND ONLY DEATH WILL SET YOU FREE.
GOODBYE, DEVIL.
THIRTY-TWO DIFFERENT SENSATIONS ROCK MY HYPER-SENSES... CARRIED IN ONE LAST, DESPERATE KISS.
TASTE, SMELL, HURLING ME BACK TO A LIGHTER TIME WHEN WE WERE MORE THAN JUST A TEAM...
...MORE THAN PARTNERS... WHEN WE COULD PRACTICALLY READ ONE ANOTHER'S THOUGHTS...
...WOOF... THE WOMAN'S STILL GOT IT -- IN SPADES...
AND MAN, DOES SHE KNOW HOW TO KISS.

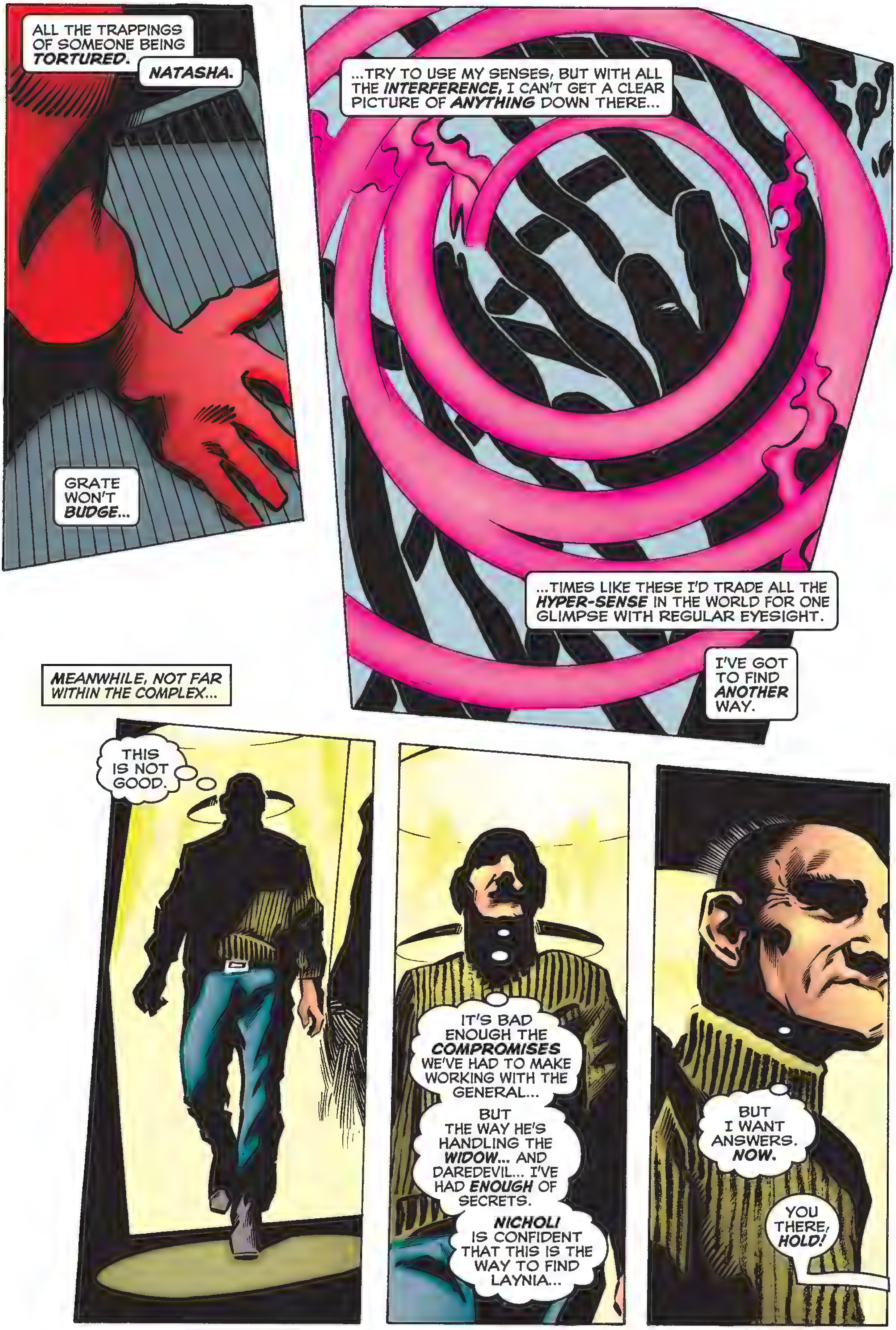

DD ACROSS THE SUBTERRANEAN COMPOUND, IN AN AREA RESTRICTED TO ONLY THE MOST TRUSTED OF THE GENERAL'S HIDES...
YOU'RE KILLING ME.
DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WE COULD BE SO CLOSE YOU AND I... Oh SO CLOSE INSTEAD OF THIS...
OPEN YOURSELF TO ME, MY DARK ONE. REVEAL YOUR DEEPEST SECRETS TO ME AS A FLOWER UNVEILS ITSELF TO THE SUN...
SO THAT I MAY STOP TEARING AWAY YOUR PETALS.
N ... NEVER --
PLEASE, LAYNIA. WILLING OR NOT, THIS MACHINE WILL EXPLOIT THE DARK ENERGIES THAT COURSE THROUGH YOU BODY.
CONTINUED RESISTANCE ONLY ENSURES AN AGONIZING DEATH... IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? TO DIE FOR PRIDE?
NO, GENERAL...
I WANT... TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING... BUT ON MY TERMS...
AND WATCH YOUR EYES AS YOU LEARN WHAT TRUE DARKNESS IS...
...MONSTER!
PTUI
I CAN HARDLY WAIT, DARK BEAUTY... I CAN HARDLY WAIT.

MILES AWAY, IN A MESSY LITTLE MANHATTAN BACHELOR PAD...
SQUEAK
FOGGY, REALLY... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE ON.
⊰SIGH⊱ I KNOW, LIZ... I DO, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, COULD I HAVE BEEN A BETTER FATHER TO DEUCE?
WOULD HE STILL BE HERE IF I HAD PAID HIM MORE ATTENTION? SHOULD I HAVE FED HIM MILK-BONES MORE OFTEN?
I HAVE A IDEA... HOW ABOUT I DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOU FORGET ABOUT THAT DOG?
YEAH... SURE... LIKE WHAT?
SMOOCH
RRING
Oh... THAT MIGHT WORK --
-Mmmm- LET THE MACHINE GET IT, FOGGY...
Uh... I THINK... IS THIS ON? Uh, YOU'VE REACHED FOGGY AND I'M NOT HOME. LEAVE A -- BEEP --
HEY FRANKIE-BABY! IT'S NIOMI BRINKE! JUST CHECKING TO SEE IF YOU GOT THE FLOWERS...
AHEM...
LIZ, I SWEAR, I HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HER -- I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GOT MY NUMBER --
CALL ME, KISS KISS! -- BEEP--
YEAH, SURE... YOU SUPER STUD, YOU.
YOU... YOU'RE NOT MAD?
NO, FOGGY. I TRUST YOU... JUST DON'T RETURN THE CALL, OKAY?
SURE! YOU BET! SO... CAN WE GET BACK TO THAT MAKING ME FORGET PART...? I SEE DEUCE IN MY MIND...
YEARS AGO... THE KIROV BALLET. I SAW A PRODUCTION OF "LA BAYADERE". DAM MAKAROVA WAS ILL THAT NIGHT. HER UNDERSTUDY PLAYED THE LEAD.
I WAS FLOORED BY THE WORK OF THAT YOUNG GIRL... AN INGENUE, SO NAIVE, AND YET...
...SO UTTERLY CAPTIVATING. TALENTED BEYOND HER YEARS --

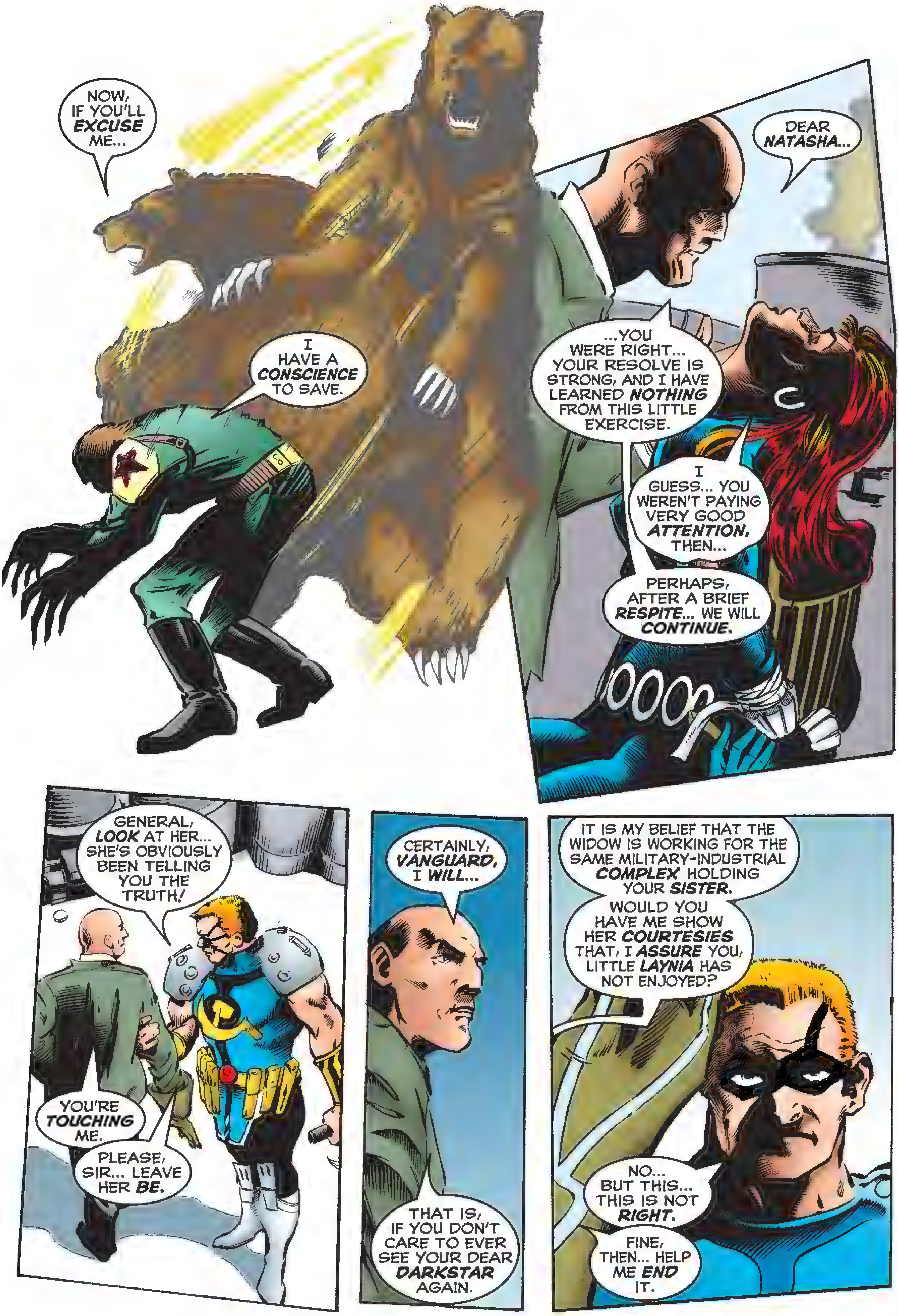
DO YOU REMEMBER, HOW THEY APPLAUDED YOU? HOW THEY CRIED FOR THEIR NATASHA?
YES. IT WAS AN ADEQUATE PERFORMANCE. A GENEROUS AUDIENCE...
PITY TO SEE THAT YOU'VE LOST YOUR APPRECIATION FOR MY WORK.
THIS IS HARDLY A WAY TO START A BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP, GENERAL. THOUGH THE BONDS COULD BE A START.
IN YOUR CASE, MY DEAR, IT IS THE ONLY WAY, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW, I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ON THAT STAGE AGAIN, PERFORMING FOR MY BENEFIT.
ZZZZT FZT
I NEED TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ACTING.
I EXPECT THAT WHEN THIS IS OVER, GENERAL... YOU STILL WON'T KNOW. I'M FUNNY THAT WAY. BUT IF YOU INSIST ON THIS COURSE, JUST REMEMBER...
...THE WIDOW NEVER FORGETS... AND NEVER FORGIVES.
THE CURTAIN FALLS, Ms. ROMANOVA...


YOUR PERFORMANCE IS OVER.
FSZZHASH
GOT TO HAND IT TO NATASHA... SHE'S A BETTER SUPER SPY THAN I'D EVER BE.
TASTE OF BILE ON THE LOCKPICK SHE SLIPPED ME PAINTS A NASTY PICTURE OF WHERE SHE HID IT. YECH!
STILL, I THINK MISS DOUBLE-O-WIDOW IS IN OVER HER HEAD ON THIS ONE..
EVEN IF IT IS THANKS TO MY UNTIMELY ARRIVAL, BUT I'M TRYING NOT TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT.
PRIORITY NOW IS TO FIND NATASHA AND BOOGIE OUT OF HERE. CALL IN HER BACK-UP TO HANDLE THE ROUGH STUFF.
CHEST FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN THROUGH A DIESEL-FUELED EPILADY, AND THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GO TOE TO CLAW WITH THAT BEAR AGAIN...
HENCE, THE DIRECT APPROACH IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. LET'S SEE WHAT TROUBLE I CAN GET INTO WITH THE OL' RADAR SENSE.
THICK MASON WORK. SOLID WALLS. LINGERING HEAT SIGNATURE WHERE NATASHA HAD BEEN SITTING...
I'M PATHETIC.
FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND, DD. AND IF YOU'RE GONNA LOSE IT FANTASIZING ABOUT SOMEONE...

THINK ABOUT **KAREN!**
HE LEFT... ...JUST LIKE THAT... LEFT ME ALONE.
GOD... I'M SO **WHINY** WHEN I'M **DRUNK**, I'M EVEN STARTING TO ANNOY **MYSELF.**
GOT TO GET A **GRIP.** NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHILE THE **WINE** GOES THROUGH MY SYSTEM...
SOMEONE WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND WHAT A PAIN IT IS TO BE DAREDEVIL'S GIRLFRIEND SOMETIMES...
-- BEEP -- HEY, FOGGY... IT'S KAREN. I'M LONELY... AND NOT EXACTLY SOBER... WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT **YOUR** FRIEND MATTHEW... ARE YOU THERE?
I SWEAR, THIS **NEVER** HAPPENS. NO ONE **EVER** CALLS ME...
Uh-Huh...
Oh! BOY... Uh... **CHEESE DOODLE?**
SO FAR SO GOOD... EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT MY **CHEST WOUND** HAS OPENED UP ON ME AGAIN.
THAT AND THE FACT THAT THE ECHO IN THIS VENTILATION DUCT IS SCRAMBLING MY **HYPER-SENSES...**
...AND THE DRAFT BOMBARDS ME WITH EVERY STENCH THIS PLACE HAS TO OFFER...
... OKAY, SO I **LIED.** THIS **SUCKS** --
-- WAIT... A SCENT... CUTTING THROUGH THE **HAZE...**
...**FEMALE** SWEAT...RIPE WITH **ADRENALINE... PAIN.** OZONE?


ALL THE TRAPPINGS OF SOMEONE BEING *TORTURED*.
NATASHA.
GRATE WON'T *BUDGE*...
...TRY TO USE MY SENSES, BUT WITH ALL THE *INTERFERENCE*, I CAN'T GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF *ANYTHING* DOWN THERE...
...TIMES LIKE THESE I'D TRADE ALL THE *HYPER-SENSE* IN THE WORLD FOR ONE GLIMPSE WITH REGULAR EYESIGHT.
I'VE GOT TO FIND *ANOTHER* WAY.
MEANWHILE, NOT FAR WITHIN THE COMPLEX...
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH THE *COMPROMISES* WE'VE HAD TO MAKE WORKING WITH THE GENERAL...
BUT THE WAY HE'S HANDLING THE *WIDOW*... AND DAREDEVIL... I'VE HAD *ENOUGH* OF SECRETS.
NICHOLI IS CONFIDENT THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO FIND LAYNIA...
BUT I WANT ANSWERS. *NOW*.
YOU THERE, *HOLD!*

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS. I AM MIKHAIL URSUS, PERSONAL...GUEST...OF THE GENERAL --
WE KNOW WHO... AND WHAT YOU ARE, GENETIC MISFIT --
-- AND WE DON'T CARE. THIS AREA IS RESTRICTED. ONLY THE GENERAL AND HIS AIDES CAN PASS. TURN BACK --
-- OR DO WE DO OUR PART TO CLEANSE THE GENE POOL... MUTANT.
MORE SECRETS... I SEE.
SCHWAKK
SCHWAKK
BE THANKFUL THAT MY THIRST FOR THE TRUTH OVERPOWERS MY HATRED OF BIGOTS LIKE YOURSELVES...
...COMRADES.

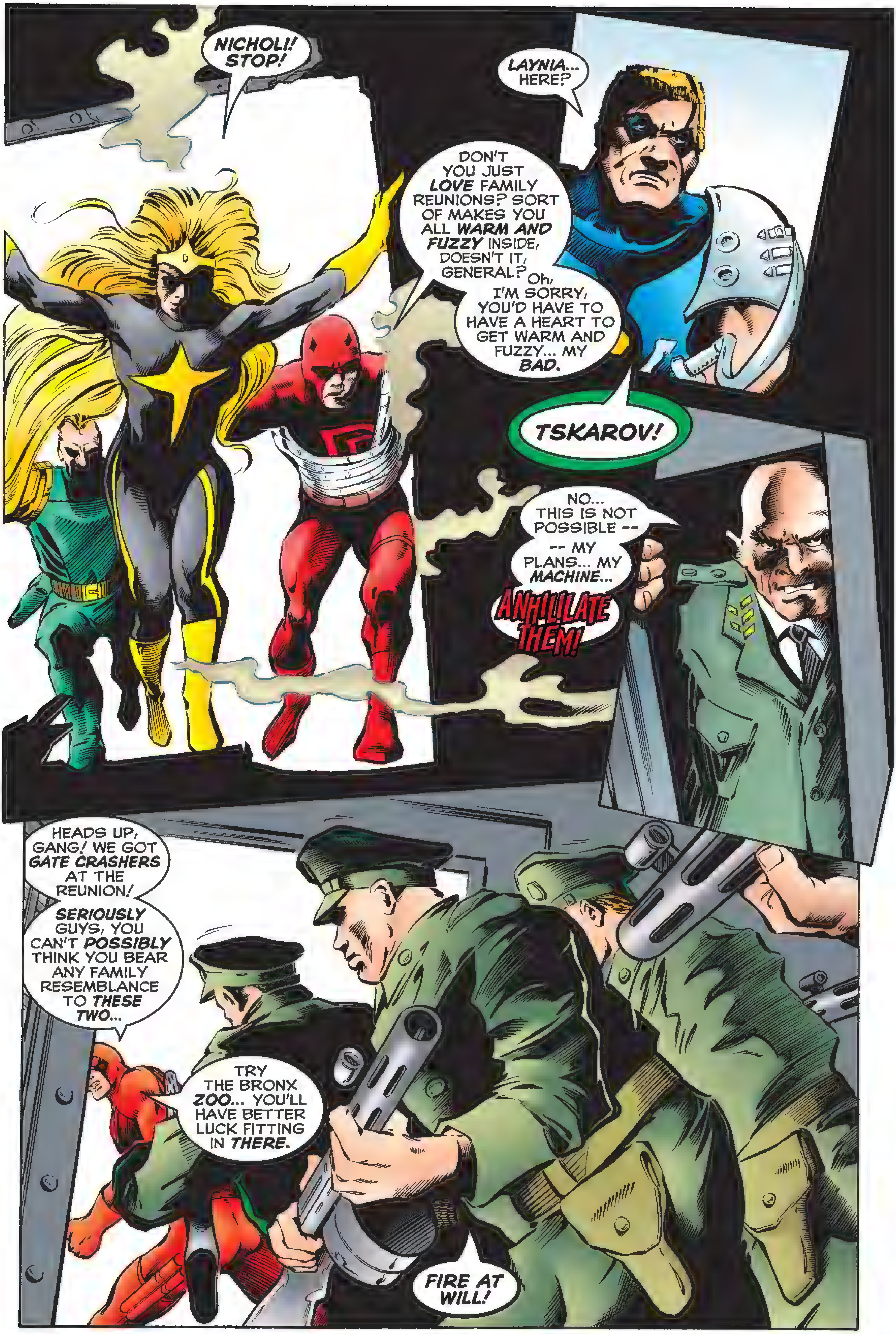

NOW, IF YOU'LL **EXCUSE** ME...
I HAVE A **CONSCIENCE** TO SAVE.
DEAR **NATASHA...**
...YOU WERE RIGHT... YOUR RESOLVE IS STRONG, AND I HAVE LEARNED **NOTHING** FROM THIS LITTLE EXERCISE.
I GUESS... YOU WEREN'T PAYING VERY GOOD **ATTENTION,** THEN...
PERHAPS, AFTER A BRIEF **RESPITE...** WE WILL **CONTINUE.**
GENERAL, **LOOK** AT HER... SHE'S OBVIOUSLY BEEN TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
YOU'RE **TOUCHING** ME.
PLEASE, SIR... LEAVE HER **BE.**
CERTAINLY, **VANGUARD,** I **WILL...**
THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T CARE TO EVER SEE YOUR DEAR **DARKSTAR** AGAIN.
IT IS MY BELIEF THAT THE WIDOW IS WORKING FOR THE SAME MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL **COMPLEX** HOLDING YOUR **SISTER.**
WOULD YOU HAVE ME SHOW HER **COURTESIES** THAT, I **ASSURE** YOU, LITTLE **LAYNIA** HAS NOT ENJOYED?
NO... BUT THIS... THIS IS NOT **RIGHT.**
FINE, THEN... HELP ME **END** IT.

"HELP ME FINISH THE QUESTIONING... QUICKLY."
TOOK FOREVER, BUT I WEASELED MY WAY AROUND TO A CORRIDOR... I THINK THAT I'M JUST OUTSIDE THE ROOM...
THAT OR SOMEWHERE IN NEW JERSEY.
WOUND'S OPENED UP AGAIN... BAD THIS TIME... I'M LOSING OIL FAST... DRIPPING THROUGH THE GRATE...
DID I SAY DRIPPING? AS IN TO THE FLOOR? Oh, CRAP.
RRROWARR
SO MUCH FOR SUBTLETY.
Nghh...
CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD... NO WAY I CAN DODGE FAST ENOUGH --
WAIT... BODIES IN THE HALLWAY... UNCONSCIOUS, I CAN HEAR THEIR BREATHING... TSKAROV'S MEN?
IS IT POSSIBLE THE BIG GUY HERE HAS SWITCHED SIDES?

I TAKE A CHANCE, AND INSTEAD OF BEATING HIS **PAW** REPEATEDLY WITH MY FACE --
TOVARISCH!
...
WHY... DO YOU CALL ME **"FRIEND?"**
I WAS HOPING YOU'D FIND IT LESS OFFENSIVE THAN **"BONGO."**
I GUESS BECAUSE I'M **NOT** THE GENERAL.
NO...YOU'RE CERTAINLY **NOT.** >SNIF SNIF< YOU DON'T REEK OF **DUPLICITY** AS HE DOES...
FRIENDSHIP REQUIRES **RESPECT... TIME... TRUST...**
WHY SHOULD I TRUST **YOU?**
BESIDES MY DISARMING **SMILE** AND SOLID **UPBRINGING...**
A LITTLE **BABY POWDER** AFTER A SHOWER TAKES CARE OF **THAT...**
BUT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT AFTER WE RESCUE THE WOMAN BEHIND DEATH TRAP NUMBER **ONE** --
I DID **NOT** GET A BABY-SITTER JUST SO I COULD HEAR OTHER WOMEN **CALL** YOU, FOGGY!
LIZ, THAT WAS JUST **KAREN!** COME ON --
BRING
Oh, LORD **NO...**
WHO'S A PARTY GIRL GOTTA CALL TO GET DOWN IN THIS **TOWN?** I'M COMIN' TO THE BIG APPLE, **STUDLY,** AND GUESS WHO'S PLAYING HOST! IN CASE YOU COULDN'T TELL, FRANKIE, IT'S CANDACE! SEE YA!
WAIT, LIZ! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THAT'S NO GIRL --
SLAM
THAT'S MY **SISTER.**
MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY THIS AGAIN ON ANOTHER NIGHT, FOGGY... IF YOUR PHONE EVER STOPS RINGING, **CALL** ME.
LAYNIA? LAYNIA, IT'S DAVIDOFF.
PLEASE LITTLE ONE... IF YOU WOULD JUST WORK WITH THE GENERAL... IT WOULD BE MORE PLEASANT...

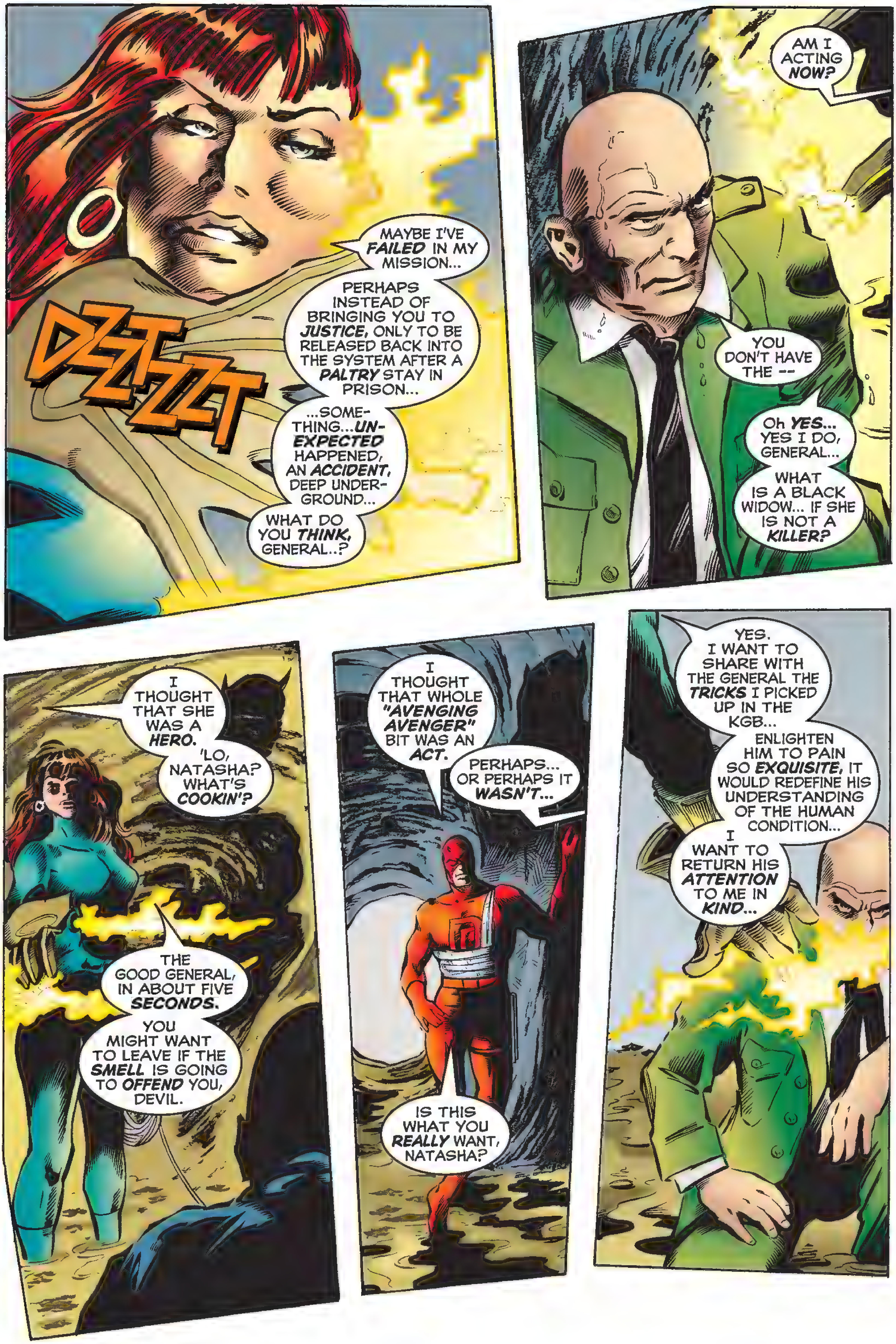
THAT'S FUNNY...
TAP TAP
WHA --?
ONLY I WAS GOING TO SAY, IF YOU DON'T YELL OUT, MY PAL MIGHT LEAVE YOUR LUNGS IN TACT.
THEMATICALLY IT'S THE SAME, ANYWAY...
LAYNIA!
THAT WASN'T EXACTLY THE EXCLAMATION I EXPECTED TO HEAR, BUT UP CLOSE, I REALIZE THAT THE WOMAN I SENSED WASN'T NATASHA AT ALL...
WAIT, URSUS! I CAN EXPLAIN --
THOUGH GRIZZLY BOSKY SEEMS EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN HER.
SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET MUCH OF A CHANCE, PAL...
NOT WHEN TWO TONS OF KODIAK BEAR RIPS THROUGH YOU LIKE A GALLON OF BORSCHT.
TAKE A SEAT AND START RECONSIDERING YOUR LOYALTIES...
MIKHAIL... YOU YOU CAME FOR ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... HERE ALL THE TIME, ALL THE TIME... THAT MAN WILL PAY --
MIKHAIL, WHERE IS MY BROTHER? HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING... RASH... HAS HE?
I HOPE NOT... ...FOR YOUR SAKE.

BLACK WIDOW... I...
PLEASE, TELL HIM WHAT HE NEEDS TO HEAR. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU... BUT IF I MUST...
...FOR MY **COUNTRY**... FOR MY **SISTER**...
I'M SURE, **NICHOLI**... THAT WOULD MAKE HER VERY **PROUD** OF YOU.
ENOUGH!
SHE IS TRYING TO **TRICK** YOU! ACT LIKE A **MAN** --
FULFILL YOUR **OBLIGATIONS!** TO ME!
YOUR COUNTRYMEN! YOUR **FAMILY!**
FORGIVE ME...
KATHOOM
SEE, VANGUARD!? THE WIDOW HAS BROUGHT THE **AMERICAN DOGS** HERE!
TEAR THEM **APART!** BREAK TH --
Oh NO...


NICHOLI! STOP!
LAYNIA... HERE?
DON'T YOU JUST LOVE FAMILY REUNIONS? SORT OF MAKES YOU ALL WARM AND FUZZY INSIDE, DOESN'T IT, GENERAL?
Oh, I'M SORRY, YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE A HEART TO GET WARM AND FUZZY... MY BAD.
TSKAROV!
NO... THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE --
-- MY PLANS... MY MACHINE...
ANHILILATE THEM!
HEADS UP, GANG! WE GOT GATE CRASHERS AT THE REUNION!
SERIOUSLY GUYS, YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY THINK YOU BEAR ANY FAMILY RESEMBLANCE TO THESE TWO...
TRY THE BRONX ZOO... YOU'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK FITTING IN THERE.
FIRE AT WILL!

CHWAK
TSKAROV! TSKAROV!
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS GOING TO SHOOT THROUGH THE ROOF IF YOU DON'T LEARN TO EXPRESS YOURSELF --
COME ON, VANGUARD... DON'T HOLD BACK. IT'S JUST NOT HEALTHY TO KEEP YOUR ANGER ALL PENT UP INSIDE...
YEARGH!!
THAT WAS JUST SUPER... NOW TRY IT AGAIN, BUT WITH DEEP BREATHING...
NATASHA! ARE YOU --
LOOK OUT!
FWISH
LOOK OUT? FOR WHO? THIS OVERZEALOUS FELLOW?
CLEARLY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT MY DEVIL'S SENSE WHICH TINGLES WHENEVER INEPT HENCHMEN ARE AFOOT. GOODNIGHT, IVAN.
NOW, AS WE WERE --
...
NATASHA?

HOW... HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED? IT WAS ALL SO --
NO! STOP THINKING LIKE AN OLD FISH WOMAN! YOU ARE THE SNOW WOLF! YOU WILL START AGAIN! YOU WILL DEVOUR THOSE AROUND Y --
SPLSH
SPLSH
THWIPP
YEARGH!
SPLASH
WELCOME TO MY PARLOR, GENERAL...
SORRY ABOUT THE MESS...BUT I WAS TIED UP.
SO, THIS IS THE PART WHERE I PUT YOU UNDER ARREST BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY THE S.H.I.E.I.D. DIRECTORATE...
BUT YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN REASSESSING MY OPTIONS...


MAYBE I'VE **FAILED** IN MY MISSION...
DZZT ZZZT
PERHAPS INSTEAD OF BRINGING YOU TO **JUSTICE,** ONLY TO BE RELEASED BACK INTO THE SYSTEM AFTER A **PALTRY** STAY IN PRISON...
...SOMETHING...**UNEXPECTED** HAPPENED, AN **ACCIDENT,** DEEP UNDERGROUND...
WHAT DO YOU **THINK,** GENERAL..?
AM I ACTING **NOW?**
YOU DON'T HAVE THE --
Oh **YES...** YES I DO, GENERAL...
WHAT IS A BLACK WIDOW... IF SHE IS NOT A **KILLER?**
I THOUGHT THAT SHE WAS A **HERO.**
'LO, NATASHA? WHAT'S **COOKIN'?**
THE GOOD GENERAL, IN ABOUT FIVE **SECONDS.**
YOU MIGHT WANT TO LEAVE IF THE **SMELL** IS GOING TO **OFFEND** YOU, DEVIL.
I THOUGHT THAT WHOLE **"AVENGING AVENGER"** BIT WAS AN **ACT.**
PERHAPS... OR PERHAPS IT **WASN'T...**
IS THIS WHAT YOU **REALLY** WANT, NATASHA?
YES. I WANT TO SHARE WITH THE GENERAL THE **TRICKS** I PICKED UP IN THE KGB...
ENLIGHTEN HIM TO PAIN SO **EXQUISITE,** IT WOULD REDEFINE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN CONDITION...
I WANT TO RETURN HIS **ATTENTION** TO ME IN **KIND...**

BUT IF I *DID*...
KTHWAKK
I MIGHT FORGET THAT I'M NOT THAT *PERSON* ANYMORE. WORSE...
I MIGHT NEVER GET ANOTHER *OPPORTUNITY*...
... TO DO *THIS.*
NO *LOCKPICKS.*
NO *SPY TRICKS* OR MIND GAMES.
JUST A LINGERING, *UNADULTERATED* KISS.
THE WAY *BOTH* OF OUR HEARTS SKIP A BEAT IN *UNISON,* I THINK I'M IN *TROUBLE*...
...BUT THAT'S A HEADACHE FOR *TOMORROW,* FOR TODAY...
...WE TOOK DOWN THE *BAD GUY*...REUNITED A *BROKEN* FAMILY... AND SAVED THE *CITY*...
... AND I'VE GOT MY *FRIEND* BACK. I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
NEXT
DD GETS SOME MUCH NEEDED DOWN TIME — OR DOES HE!?

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
JAN
#371
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
KELLY
OLIVETTI
BRITO
THE FALLOUT!

THE LAST HOUR OF THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT TICKS AWAY WITHIN A STRUCTURE KNOWN COLLOQUIALLY AS "MO' MERCY"...
...ESSENTIALLY A COMBAT HOSPITAL PLOPPED JUST TO THE LEFT OF NEW YORK HELL.
WHERE BROKEN BODIES ARE OVERHAULED BY PHYSICIANS WITH SHOPWORN SOULS...
...JUST TO BE SENT BACK TO THE FRONT... AND BROKEN AGAIN.
MOTHER OF MERCY HOSPITAL
SOUTH BRONX
I DON'T USUALLY MAKE A HABIT OF THIS, YOU KNOW, DOCTOR.
WHAT'S THAT, GETTING PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT? GEE, NO KIDDING --
-- OR IS THAT ROAD MAP OF SCAR TISSUE DOWN YOUR BACK A PIECE OF BODY ART? ONE CAN NEVER TELL THESE DAYS...
1 2 3 4 5
FUNNY. NO, WHAT I MEANT WAS, I DON'T USUALLY EXPOSE MYSELF... TO PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW.
IT SORT OF VIOLATES THE WHOLE "SECRET IDENTITY" THING, EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T KNOW MY NAME --
AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE THAT AS SOME SORT OF CONFIRMATION THAT I'M A GOOD PERSON? GUESS WHAT...
...THAT AND A BUCK FIFTY CAN GET ME ON THE SUBWAY. TRUTH IS, Mr. DAREDEVIL, OUT OF COSTUME...
...YOU'RE JUST LIKE ANY OTHER PATIENT IN THIS PLACE.
YOU'RE A WOUND. A CURE. A BILL WE DON'T EXPECT TO SEE PAID. I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE UNDER THE HORNS.
I'M SURE I WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TO COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR GLOWING BEDSIDE MANNER, Dr. REYES...
...SO I WON'T.
Isn't that Dr. CECILIA REYES from the X-MEN? To see how she and the Crimson One met, pick up UNCANNY X-MEN #351! — Jaye

TRY NOT TO TAKE IT PERSONALLY. I'M THIS COLD TO ALL OF MY SPANDEX-CLAD PATIENTS...
COSTUMED SUPER-DUDES AREN'T ON MY TOP TEN LIST THIS YEAR. SORRY.
WOULD IT HELP TO KNOW THAT I JUST CAME FROM SAVING THE CITY?
NOT REALLY.
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU I WRESTLED A BEAR?
LOOK, BEFORE YOU TRY TO CHARM ME INTO LIKING YOU, CAN I GIVE YOU A BIT OF ADVICE?
IS IT GOING TO COST ME ANYTHING EXTRA?
THIS ONE'S A FREEBIE.
ASSUMING YOU DIDN'T FALL OUT OF A SUPER HERO TREE, YOU PROBABLY HAVE A REAL LIFE WITH A REAL NAME AND A REAL JOB WITH A "NO LONG JOHNS" DRESS CODE.
IF THAT'S TRUE... DON'T GET SO WRAPPED UP IN FIGHTING MONSTERS THAT YOU FORGET WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR.
BECAUSE THE NEXT TIME YOU COME HOME FROM SAVING THE CITY... THERE MAY NOT BE ANYTHING LEFT TO COME BACK TO.
END OF FRIENDLY LECTURE. GO HOME.
YOU SOUND LIKE A WOMAN WITH SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE MATTER --
I'M A THIRD-YEAR RESIDENT, Mr. DAREDEVIL... I HAVEN'T HAD A REAL LIFE IN YEARS.
THERE'S A SET OF CLOTHES IN THAT CABINET. THEY'RE YOURS IF YOU WANT TO WALK OUT OF HERE INCONSPICUOUSLY.
SURE, DOC... THANKS FOR EVERYTHING... I HOPE YOU CAN GET YOUR LIFE BACK.
DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH. BLUE'S NOT YOUR COLOR.
BY THE WAY, WHOSE CLOTHES ARE THESE ANYWAY?
HEART ATTACK. FORTY-TWO. WORKED EVERY DAY IN A sssFACTORY FOR TWENTY YEARS TO SUPPORT THREE BEAUTIFUL KIDS HE NEVER GOT TO SEE.
ONLY THING HE'S WEARING NOW IS A PINE BOX.
TAKE CARE, DAREDEVIL.
MATT... IT'S MATT.

MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE BRIDGE IN AN ESPECIALLY CLEAN, AND ESPECIALLY HIGH-PRICED SECTION OF MANHATTAN...
WHAT FLOOR, PLEASE, MISS?
...
Uh... MISS?
TOP... THE TOP.
WHATEVER FLOOR THE TOP IS.
QUIETLY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE...
YES, MISS.
PING
PING
Oh GOD... I'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED DOLLARS IF YOU SHOOT THAT BELL...
NEVER AGAIN... NO WINE EVER... NOT EVEN IN CHURCH...
MAY I RECOMMEND ALKA SELTZER AND SOME VITAMIN C?
UNGHH...
PING
WHAT DO I THINK I'M DOING?
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING WITH THE WORST HANG-OVER OF MY LIFE... I SHOULD BE IN BED, NOT HERE --
Oh, YEAH... THAT'S IT... I REMEMBER...
I HATE MATT MURDOCK. GOTCHA.
RAGE. THE PERFECT ANALGESIC.
KNOK KNOK
SOMEONE HAD BETTER BE ON FIRE OR -- KAREN PAGE?
HELLO, ROSALIND.
NO WORDS YET, JUST COFFEE. PLEASE.

YOU LOOK LIKE A MESS. TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
CAFFEINE FIRST, THEN IRONY.
CERTAINLY. WON'T YOU COME IN?
THE MAN STAN LEE PRESENTS WITHOUT FEAR
FALLOUT
JOE KELLY WRITER
ARIEL OLIVETTI PENCILER
PIER BRITTO INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
MOTHER OF
SOUTH
FIFTEEN MINUTES IS LATE... HALF AN HOUR IS LATE...
...AN HOUR AND A HALF MEANS KAREN EITHER DIDN'T GET MY MESSAGE, WHICH WORRIES ME BECAUSE SHE ISN'T HOME AT SEVEN A.M....
...OR THE WOMAN IS SCREENING CALLS AND IGNORING HER ONE TRUE LOVE, WHICH FRIGHTENS ME...
...'CAUSE IT MEANS I'M DEAD.
HEY, SON, YOU HEAR THE GOOD NEWS?
THEY'VE FINALLY ANNOUNCED THAT MY TROUBLED LIFE HAS ALL BEEN A DREAM?
Uh... NO.
"REPORTS ARE FLOODING IN FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE THAT THE COSTUMED ADVENTURERS LOST IN LAST YEAR'S ONSLAUGHT INCIDENT..."
"...NAMELY THE AVENGERS AND THE FANTASTIC FOUR... HAVE SEEMINGLY RISEN FROM THE GRAVE... THE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES HAVE RETURNED..."
HEROES RETURN!
PSYCHO KILLER ON THE RUN!

NOW, DON'T GET ME **WRONG**, 'CAUSE I'M AS BIG A FAN O' THE 'VENGERS AS THE NEXT JOE...
...BUT TO SAY THE *"HEROES RETURNED"*...
...SORT'VE FORGETS THE GUYS WHO **BEEN HERE** FOR THE LAST YEAR PICKIN' UP THE **MESS**, DON'T IT?
FIREMEN, COPS, HECK, EVEN THE GUYS WHO FIXED UP ***CENTRAL PARK!*** Y' DON'T SEEN ANYONE WRITIN' HEADLINES FOR ***THEM!***
THAT'S A GOOD POINT, SIR... BUT YOU KNOW ***WHAT?***
I BET MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THAT AREN'T INTERESTED IN PRESS COVERAGE...
...JUST KNOWING THAT SOMEONE LIKE YOU TOOK TIME TO ***NOTICE*** WOULD PROBABLY MAKE THEIR ***DAY*** --
HEY, MATT!
LIOTROLO
Er, Oh... NO -- I MEAN, ***MIKE!***
MIKE! LET'S GO!
HELLO, FOGGY... DO I DETECT A LIMO IN FRONT OF ME?
ISN'T IT COOL? I SNAGGED IT FROM THE CARPOOL.
TOLD THEM I WAS GOING TO NEW JERSEY ON BUSINESS.
SMOOTH, Huh?
REAL SMOOTH...
BECAUSE NOW ***EVERYONE*** IN THE ***SOUTH BRONX*** HAS SEEN A MAN WITH MY DESCRIPTION LEAVING A POVERTY-STRICKEN NEIGHBORHOOD --
-- IN A ***LIMO.***
DOES IT STRIKE YOU THAT SORT OF ***BLOWS*** THAT WHOLE *"I NEED TO BE INCONSPICUOUS"* THING WE DISCUSSED?
Oh... THINK ANYONE ***NOTICED?***
NO... OF COURSE NOT, FOGGY.
BY THE WAY, THIS CAR DOESN'T HAVE A LITTLE YELLOW *"DAREDEVIL ON BOARD"* SIGN IN THE WINDOW, DOES IT, PAL?
GIRLS
SKREEEE

THE WHOLE REASON I CAME TO THE BRONX FOR TREATMENT, FOGGY, WAS SO THAT I COULD GET IN AND OUT QUIETLY --
-- SLIP THROUGH THE CRACKS, SO NO ONE WOULD EVER CONNECT MATT MURDOCK AND DD TO THE SAME BULLET WOUND --
LOOK, I SAID I'M SORRY, MATT... NEXT TIME I'LL CALL A CAB AND WEAR A DISGUISE...
Oooh! YOU WANT A PEANUT? I HAD THEM STOCK THE BAR... THEY'RE FROM INDONESIA.
ƧSIGHƸ YOU MAKE IT REALLY TOUGH TO STAY TICKED OFF SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT, PAL?
YEAH? YOU WANT TO CALL A CERTAIN GAL NAME OF OSBORN AND TELL HER THAT?
PAT PAT
I'M NOT HIGH ON HER HIT PARADE AT THE MOMENT, THANKS TO A COMICAL BUT VERY UNTIMELY SERIES OF PHONE CALLS FROM OTHER WOMEN --
-- INCLUDING A SUPER-MODEL, MY PAIN-IN-THE-KIESTER LITTLE SISTER...
...AND THE VERY P.O.'ED GIRLFRIEND OF A CERTAIN BLIND GUY IN THIS CAR WHO SHALL REMAIN NAMELESS.
KAREN'S REALLY ANGRY, Huh?
THE WORD "LIVID" COMES TO MIND... FOLLOWED BY THE WORDS "BLITZED" AND "INCOHERENT."
FANTASTIC. IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM ME FOR A FEW DAYS, FOG... CALL THE CORONER.
HEY, MAN, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? YOU DIDN'T JUST BLOW OFF DINNER OR LEAVE THE SEAT UP!
YOU ABANDONED KAREN FOR AN EX-GIRLFRIEND, WHO HAPPENS TO BE AN AVENGER... AND A GORGEOUS ONE AT THAT!
BUT, FOGGY, I HAD TO! NATASHA SHOT ME, FOR PITY'S SAKE! I HAD TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO HER...
...IT WAS STRICTLY OUT OF CONCERN FOR A FRIEND...
KAREN SHOULD KNOW THAT... THINGS WERE OVER BETWEEN NATASHA AND ME YEARS AGO REALLY.
NO SPARK AT ALL...

IT'S A DEAD --
FWAP
--ISSUE..?
WHOA.
IS THAT SO, DARLING? GOOD THING I DIDN'T SIT AT HOME WAITING FOR YOUR CALL, THEN.
PORT AUTHORITY. NEW YORK CITY'S MASS TRANSIT PIPELINE TO THE REST OF THE EAST COAST AND BEYOND.
ON WEEKENDS LIKE THIS ONE, THE THICK WALLS BARELY CONTAIN THE MAELSTROM OF ANXIOUS NEW YORKERS FIGHTING LIKE LITTLE TORNADOES TO ESCAPE THE GRIP OF THE CITY...
...BUT SOMETIMES... ON OCCASION... THE WIND SHIFTS...
...AND SOMETHING IS BLOWN BACK IN THROUGH THE CITY GATES...
5321
GREYHOUND
...SOMETHING THAT TASTES LIKE TROUBLE.
YO, CHECK IT OUT. CLEAN CELLS FOR TWENTY-FIVE. TELL ME YOU LOVE NYC AND I'LL HOOK YOU UP FOR TWENTY -- WHOA.

WHAT'S THE 411, LADIES? LOOKING FOR A NUMBER?
Nah... JUST SWINGING BACK INTO TOWN FROM A LITTLE THING OUT WEST, TOTAL BORE.
TOLD MY FRIEND HERE THAT IF SHE REALLY WANTED TO ROCK, WE HAD TO SKIP BACK TO THE BIG A.
SHE'S LOOKING TO MEET NEW FRIENDS... ARE YOU FRIENDLY?
FRIENDLY AS YOU WANNA BE.
YOU'LL DO. LET'S PARTY.
MEANWHILE, JUST AFTER BREAKFAST AT THE WORLD FAMOUS HOME OF THE LITTLE BLUE BOX... TIFFANY'S...
EXCUSE ME... A LITTLE HELP HERE?
SOMETHING TO DRINK? MINERAL WATER?
YES MISS, I'M CERTAIN THAT WE CAN GET THAT FOR YOU...
I HAVE THE SIZE YOU ASKED FOR RIGHT HERE, MISS. THE CARAT ISN'T EXACTLY RIGHT, BUT THE CLARITY IS EXCELLENT!
NO THANK YOU -- I --
-- GOOD LORD... IS THAT REAL?!
THIS IS -- Oh, I COULDN'T!
YOU'RE TOO RIGHT, DEAR. NO ONE WITH A JOT OF TASTE WOULD STRAP ON DIAMOND EARRINGS WEIGHING LESS THAN TWO CARATS A PIECE.
RENALDO, I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS... BREAK OPEN THE GOOD CASE.
OF COURSE, Ms. SHARPE... I'LL GET A GUARD IMMEDIATELY TO ASSIST THE LADY...
ROSALIND, WHEN I SAID I WANTED TO VENT... I JUST EXPECTED TO TALK --
TALK IS CHEAP. JEWELRY IS NOT.
WHAT FUN IS IT DATING A LAWYER IF YOU CAN'T CHARGE PRESENTS TO HIS ACCOUNT WHEN HE DOES WRONG BY YOU?

THIS IS FUN, ROSALIND. BUT... NOW THAT MY HEADACHE'S GONE... I FEEL SORT OF STUPID DRAGGING YOU INTO ALL OF THIS.
I GUESS I WAS TRYING TO TO STICK IT TO MATT, GETTING HIS BOSS INVOLVED... BUT --
NONSENSE, KAREN!
YOU AND I ARE, DARE I SAY... FRIENDLY OUTSIDE OF MY BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP WITH MATTHEW.
I'M FLATTERED YOU CALLED, AND HAPPY TO HELP IN MY OWN SMALL WAY...
...HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE SUFFERING FROM THE GUILTS, YOU'RE FREE TO RETURN TO MATTHEW'S OPEN ARMS...
UNLESS THOSE ARMS HAPPEN TO BE AROUND SOMEONE ELSE...
RENALDO?
SHOW ME SOMETHING WITH CARATS IN THE DOUBLE DIGITS, PLEASE... AND I'LL TAKE THAT WATER NOW.
SO...
...FEELING IMPULSIVE TODAY, ARE WE?
DON'T BE FRESH, MATTHEW... YOU KNOW THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE APPROACHED YOU IF THERE WAS ANY DANGER OF EXPOSING YOUR SECRET.
"YEAH... I KNOW THAT. OR I NEVER WOULD HAVE LEAPT FROM A MOVING LIMO IN BROAD DAYLIGHT TO FOLLOW YOU UP FORTY STORIES...
"...BUT IF I DIDN'T SAY SOMETHING, I MIGHT'VE BEEN TEMPTED TO NOTICE HOW CLOSE YOU'RE SITTING TO ME.
THINGS ARE GOOD, MATTHEW.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME... I'M AT EASE...
...TSKAROV IS FINISHED. THE PEOPLE'S PROTECTORATE HAVE BEEN REUNITED AND ARE RESTING. MY SUPERIORS ARE PLEASED...

Last ish J.

AND THE AVENGERS ARE BACK.
MY TEAM HAS RETURNED TO ME, MORE OR LESS IN TACT.
I HEAR HER LIPS PART AS SHE SMILES. FEEL BODY HEAT THROUGH LEATHER...
...WE'RE SITTING TOO CLOSE.
I HEARD. MUST BE A RELIEF...
...JUST TRY NOT TO SHOOT THEM WHEN THEY COME BACK TO THE MANSION, ALL RIGHT?
YOU JOKE, BUT I KNOW THAT YOU'RE STILL UPSET.
STAND. GOOD. STANDING IS GOOD.
WHAT, OVER THIS? WHAT'S A FLESH WOUND BETWEEN FRIENDS, REALLY?
SURE, MAYBE I THOUGHT YOU'D GONE OVER TO THE DARK SIDE. BUT HEY...
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SHOOTING. THAT'S BEEN EXPLAINED. I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND..
...I MEANT THE KISS.
WHA --? I... Oh.
CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE SHOOTING. INSTEAD?
IT WAS GOOD... WASN'T IT? NOT JUST EXCESS ADRENALINE...
...NOT THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT...
...IT WAS REAL. IT WAS...
NATASHA... I --
...IT WAS RIGHT.
YES... IT WAS... NICE.
"NICE"? DOES "NICE" MAKE A HEART POUND LIKE THUNDER? LIKE MINE DID?
LIKE YOURS DOES NOW?
CLOSE. DEFINITELY TOO CLOSE.

NATASHA I... IT *DID*... *DOES* FEEL RIGHT...
BUT I... *KAREN*. I'M SOR --
DON'T. DON'T APOLOGIZE.
SMEK
BECAUSE THAT WOULD IMPLY THAT THIS IS *FINAL*. OVER...
WHEN WE BOTH KNOW THAT IT'S JUST THE *BEGINNING*... OF SOMETHING *NEW*.
SIGH I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THIS UP WITH YOU WHEN YOU WERE OUT OF *COSTUME*...
DAREDEVIL IS SO MUCH MORE *LIBERAL* WITH HIS FEELINGS... PERHAPS *NEXT* TIME...
...*DASVIDANYA*, MATTHEW.
SO LONG. 'TASHA.
WHEW
MERCY...

MEANWHILE... IN A CONSIDERABLY LESS STEAMY LOCALE...
SUPER HEROES... SHEESH --
LIKE SHE COULDN'T JUST PICK UP THE PHONE AND SAY "HEY. LET'S TALK"..?
SOMETIMES HAVING A NORMAL BORING LIFE ISN'T HALF BAD --
ALL RIGHT! I'LL RUN DOWNSTAIRS AND SCORE SOME MORE BREW TOO --
Oh, MY... DID I GO TO THE WRONG APARTMENT AGAIN?
FOGGY!
CANDACE?!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND, BRO! YOU WEREN'T AROUND, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF THROWING MYSELF A WELCOME BACK PARTY!
WELCOME... BACK?
CANDACE... WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?
I DON'T KNOW. MET 'EM ON THE STREET... THEY REALLY LIKE YOUR CRIB.

IT TAKES **TWO BARS** OF KAREN'S **RASPBERRY** SOAP TO **OBLITERATE** ANY TRACE OF NATASHA'S SCENT FROM MY **SKIN...**
IF I COULD ONLY SCOUR MY MIND AS EASILY, ALL WOULD BE **PEACHY.**
INSTEAD, I SETTLE FOR A SHOWER JUST SHY OF FREEZING TO HELP ME FORGET.
COLD **STRAIGHTENS** OUT THE MIND.
COLD KEEPS ME **HONEST.**
COLD IS MY FRIEND.
Y-**YAY** C-**C**-COLD.
AHEM "**HON!** YOU **WON'T BELIEVE** WHAT HAPPENED IN BRIGHTON BEACH --"
NO... TOO **CHEERY.**
"SO...I NOTICED MY **CLOTHES** WERE STILL IN THE CLOSET...
"...I TAKE IT I'M NOT **KICKED OUT...**"
BETTER, BUT STILL A LITTLE FLIP...
SIGH THIS IS GONNA BE **ROUGH.**
MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR A SWING AROUND THE BLOCK AND PROPERLY PLAN MY **GROVELLING** BEFORE KAREN COMES HOME --
NO. **PAINFUL** AS IT'S GOING TO BE, MATT MURDOCK, YOU ARE GOING TO STAY **RIGHT** HERE AND TAKE YOUR **MEDICINE** --
YOUR SOLE **MISSION** IN THIS **LIFE** IS TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH THAT WOMAN!
GET **BACK!**
KKSSH
HELP!

TIMES LIKE THESE, A MAN REALIZES JUST HOW INCONVENIENT HYPER-SENSES CAN BE WHEN DEALING IN MATTERS OF THE HEART.
NOT THIS TIME! THIS IS DAREDEVIL'S AFTERNOON OFF. LET'S LET NEW YORK'S FINEST HANDLE THIS ONE. 9-1 --
KSSH
SOUNDS CLOSE. BARELY A BUILDING AWAY --
-- I COULD GET THERE AND BACK IN A MATTER OF MINUTES, REALLY...
...BUT WHAT IF KAREN --
HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
Oh, ALRIGHT! I HEARD YOU!
SOME PEOPLE...
I HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT REVENGE TODAY, YOUNG KAREN!
LEAVE THE SLEEPING AROUND FOR THE SLUTS. REAL LADIES GET THEIR ERRANT KNIGHTS WHERE IT HURTS... AND DO IT WITH STYLE.
ROSALIND, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR MYSELF SAY THIS... BUT YOU'RE AN INSPIRATION.

I DO *TRY*... JUST DON'T SPREAD IT *AROUND*, I HAVE A REPUTATION AS A *SOULESS HARPY* TO MAINTAIN.
NOW, WHERE SHALL IT BE FOR *DINNER?* I HAVE A STANDING TABLE AT *TAVERN ON THE GREEN.*
SOUNDS *DIVINE*...
BUT...I THINK I'D BETTER BE GETTING *HOME.*
BOUTIQUE
WHAT? SO *SOON?*
BUT MATTHEW IS THERE.
BAD, EVIL MATTHEW! TESTOSTERONED MATTHEW!
I KNOW...BUT...WELL, THIS HAS BEEN *GREAT*, AND I PROMISE, I *WILL* MAKE HIM *CRAWL* BEFORE HE CAN *WALK*...
BUT I'M NOT THE *HIDING* TYPE, NO MATTER WHAT OUR PROBLEMS. MATT AND I ARE IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL.
I NEED TO GET THIS *OVER* WITH...UP FRONT, FACE TO *FACE*... *YOU KNOW?* BESIDES...
I THINK I *MAXXED OUT* HIS CREDIT CARD.
WELL... SMALL STEPS. NEXT TIME I'LL WHISK YOU SOMEWHERE FARTHER AWAY SO HE REALLY SWEATS IT OUT... ...BUT FOR NOW, I *RESPECT* A WOMAN WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE WANTS, AND IS WILLING TO TURN DOWN A *FIVE STAR* RESTAURANT TO GET IT.
THANKS, ROSALIND, FOR *EVERYTHING.* MAYBE WE CAN DO THIS AGAIN SOMETIME... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING ANYTHING *ELSE* WITH MY DAYS.
I'D EXPECT THAT TO *CHANGE* SOON, IF I WERE YOU, KAREN.
FROM *YOUR* MOUTH TO *GOD'S* EARS... BYE, ROSALIND.
BDEEP
BYE, DEAR...
YES... THE *DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S* OFFICE...
...I DON'T *CARE* IF HE'S GOT THE MAYOR, THIS IS *ROSALIND SHARPE.*
MAYBE NOT *GOD'S* EARS... BUT THEY'LL *DO*...
MALT
5395
YORK

HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
KSSH
MINUTE AND A HALF TO CROSS THREE BLOCKS WITH A BAD ARM... FIVE MINUTES TO SLIP IN, KNOCK THE BAD GUYS UNCONSCIOUS... RETURN TRIP...
I GET TO PLAY HERO, MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER IS NONE THE WISER... EVERYBODY WINS!
NOW, TO GET A MENTAL SNAPSHOT OF THE CRIME SCENE WITH MY RADAR SENSE --
Oh, NO.
HE'S GONNA KILL ME, HE IS!
WHEN IS IT GONNA END WITH THE DIRTY MAGAZINES AND CIGAR SMOKING OVER MY FOOD, SEYMOUR?
SMASH
MAVIS, PLEASE, SOMEONE'S GONNA HEAR!
YUP... CRIME OF THE CENTURY...
SO GLAD I RISKED MY RELATIONSHIP TO INVESTIGATE A CROCKERY HURLING...
...BEFORE THAT'S ME AND KAREN, THIS LITTLE DEVIL'S OFF TO SLIP BACK INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE.
LISTEN, HONEY...IT WAS AN ART MAGAZINE HOW MANY TIMES --
AIIEE! A PEEPING TOM! SEYMOUR GET YOUR GUN!
WHAT?! WHERE? SEE, I TOLD YOU SOMEBODY'S HERE -- WHOA!
DUCK, SEYMOUR! I GOT THE PERVERT IN MY SIGHTS!
NO!

KLONG
OWW!
FORGOT ABOUT THIS STUPID SLING --!
Y-YYOU'RE N-NO PEEPING TOM...
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TRUE THAT IS, SIR.
SO... WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM, FOLKS..? BROKEN DISHWASHER?
MATT?
MATT -- Oh?
LIPGLOSS PULP
THIS IS A NICE START. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STAYED OUT LONGER...
OKAY, COUNSELOR, THE COURT IS READY TO HEAR YOUR PLEA OF NOT-GUILTY-OF-BEING-A-JERK!
I SEE SUCH A SEVERE BEATING IN YOUR FUTURE, Mr. MURDOCK...
MOTION TO FRY HIM, YOUR HONOR.
DON'T MAKE ME SEND A BAILIFF AFTER YO -- WHA?
THE WINDOW --?

NOW, MAVIS, **REALLY...** ALL COUPLES GO THROUGH THESE LITTLE **SPATS** AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER...
...BUT **NO** ARGUMENT'S EVER BEEN SOLVED BY BREAKING **CORNING WEAR** OVER A SPOUSE'S HEAD...
...NOW **LOOK** AT US... WE'RE SITTING HERE, **TALKING** IT OUT LIKE A LOVING, **CIVILIZED** COUPLE...
...ISN'T THIS **BETTER?**
LOSER.
BATTLE AXE.
DEVIANT.
WIDE LOAD.
THAT'S IT! YOU'RE A **DEAD MAN,** SEYMOUR!
GO ON! YOU'LL BE DOING ME A **FAVOR!**
SIGH YOU'D BETTER GET A BIGGER FRYING PAN, MAVIS... YOU'RE NOT THAT GOOD A **SHOT.**
EVERYBODY **OUT!** O-U-T!
YOU CAN'T **DO** THIS, MAN! WE HAVEN'T EVEN SET ANYTHING ON **FIRE** YET!
PARTY FOUL TIMES **TEN!**
HOPE YOU HAD A **BLAST.** CATCH YOU AT THE TUNNEL LATER, STUD.
WHEN YOU GET YOUR **SCRAWNY** LITTLE BUTT OUT OF **SECRETARIAL** SCHOOL AND START PAYING **MY RENT --**
-- **THEN** YOU AND MY SISTER CAN START TRASHING THE PLACE, BUT UNTIL THEN, THE PARTY'S OVER!
OOOh! YOU ARE **SO** LAME!
YEAH, BUT I NEED MY **SECURITY DEPOSIT,** SO I DON'T CARE.

YOUR BROTHER IS A FULL-OUT **ZERO,** CANDY. CAN'T YOU GET A **DIVORCE** OR SOMETHING?
SORRY, KITTEN. HE'S MINE FOR **LIFE.** SEE YA, **MARISSA.**
LATER.
SLAM
STILL A FEW HOURS BEFORE THE **PRE-PARTIES** START... MAYBE I'LL GET A DOUBLE DECAF-CAPPY AT STARJERKS --
PARDON ME...
3
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO LAUNCH ON A FULL OUT **RAGE** THAT WON'T QUIT... I KNOW A FEW **PLACES...**
...A FEW **MOVES** YOU MIGHT DIG... CARE TO KEEP THE PARTY GOING?
YOU SPEAK MY LANGUAGE, STUD. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WHAT NAME WOULD YOU **LIKE?**
OOh... A **MYSTERY** MAN?
MOM SAID I SHOULDN'T PLAY WITH STRANGERS...
SHE WAS **RIGHT. SHALL** WE?
THIS WAS **NOT** COOL, CANDACE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT COSTS TO **INSURE** THIS PLACE?
WHAT IF SOMEONE HAD GOTTEN **HURT --**
-- I'M GOING TO CALL MOM AND DAD **RIGHT** NOW AND --
-- ARE YOU **LISTENING** TO ME?
OOP.
I MISSED YOU, LARDBUTT.
I -- **DON'T** TRY -- >SIGH< ME **TOO, SQUIRT.**

TWO HOURS, HALF A SET OF DISHES AND A COFFEEPOT LATER... MAVIS FINALLY CONNECTED AND SEYMOUR HAD TO GET RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR STITCHES.
THEN THEY STOPPED YELLING, AND LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A NATURE FILM, SHE STARTED KISSING HIM ON HIS HEAD AND...
EEW. I'D RATHER NOT RECAP...
AT LEAST I GOT A CARROT CAKE OUT OF THE WHOLE DEAL. MAVIS' SPECIALTY... ASIDE FROM THE SHOT-PUT...
SO IS THAT IT? IS THAT WHAT A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP TURNS INTO?
IS THAT WHAT'S DOWN THE ROAD FOR ME AND --
KAREN.
SILENT TREATMENT, STEADY HEARTBEAT... I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CLUE WHAT SHE'S THINKING.
Uh... CARROT CAKE?
TAKE OFF THE MASK.

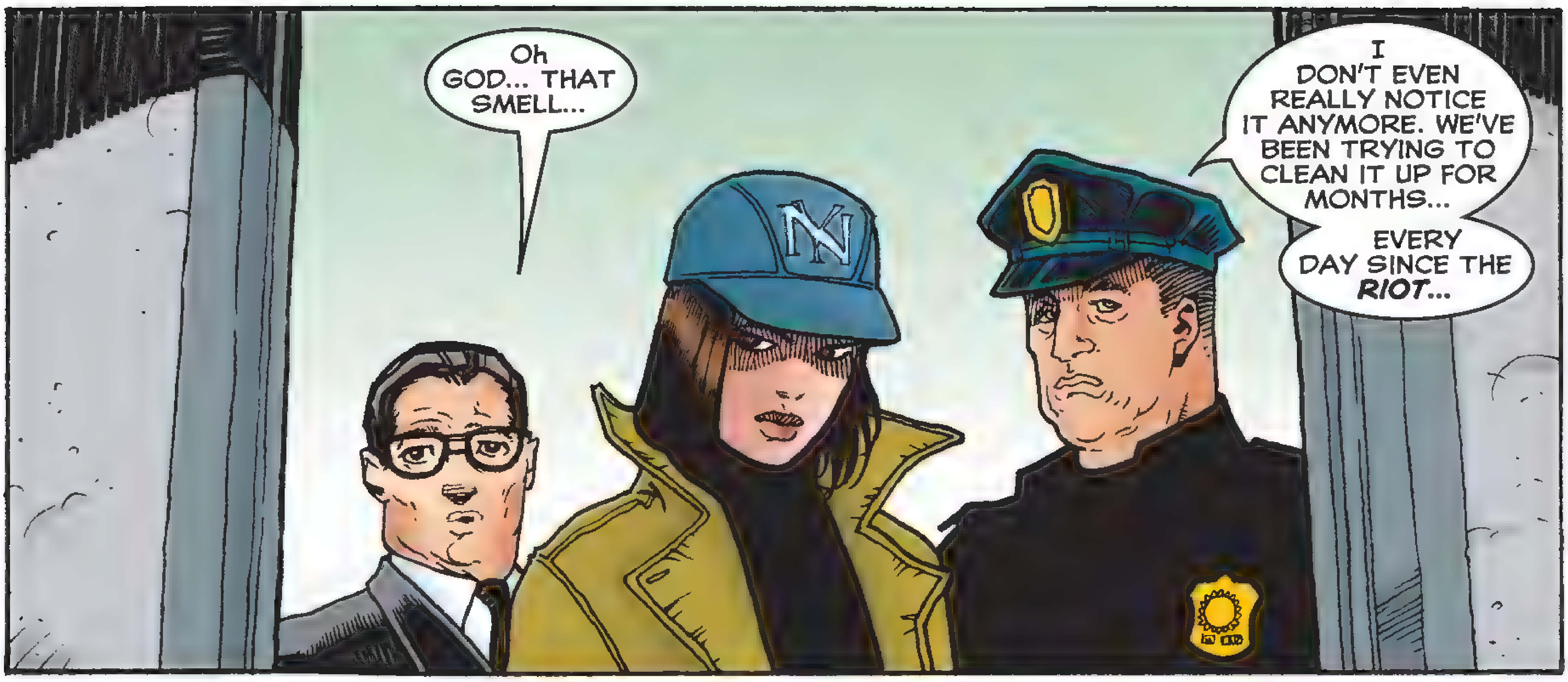
KAREN, HON... NOW, **BEFORE** YOU START --
NO.
YOU DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR LAST TIME, AND I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO FINISH MY ***SENTENCE***, SO THIS TIME --
-- YOU ***SHUT UP.***
OW -- KAREN, THAT'S WHERE I GOT ***SHOT*** --
SHUT. UP.
URK SHUTTING UP.
DAREDEVIL IS MY ***LOVER***. I ***ACCEPT*** THE BURDENS THAT COME WITH THAT. THE DANGER. THE BLOOD. THE UNPREDICTABILITY...
HOWEVER, I ***WON'T*** ACCEPT BEING TREATED AS AN ***ACCESSORY*** TO YOUR ***COSTUME***.
WE SHARE A ***PARTNERSHIP***, MATT. OPEN. HONEST. ***EQUAL***.
I ***NEVER*** ASK YOU TO STAY IN. WHEN I FINALLY ***DID***, IT WASN'T OUT OF ***JEALOUSY*** OR IRRATIONAL ***FEAR***... I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOUR ***LIFE***.
I EXPECT THAT NEXT TIME I ASSERT MY OPINION, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST CAST IT ASIDE WITHOUT ***DISCUSSION***...
BECAUSE THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT THROUGH IS TOGETHER... A TEAM.
THIS ALL ***SINKING*** IN, HORN-LAD? 'CAUSE IF IT'S NOT, I HEAR THERE ARE A SLEW OF AVAILABLE SUPER HEROES BACK IN TOWN TO CHOOSE FROM!
IF WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING, THEN YOU'RE OFFICIALLY ***FORGIVEN***.
SHE DIDN'T MENTION THE ***WIDOW***... SHOULD I --?
YEAH... ***THANKS***, PARTNER.

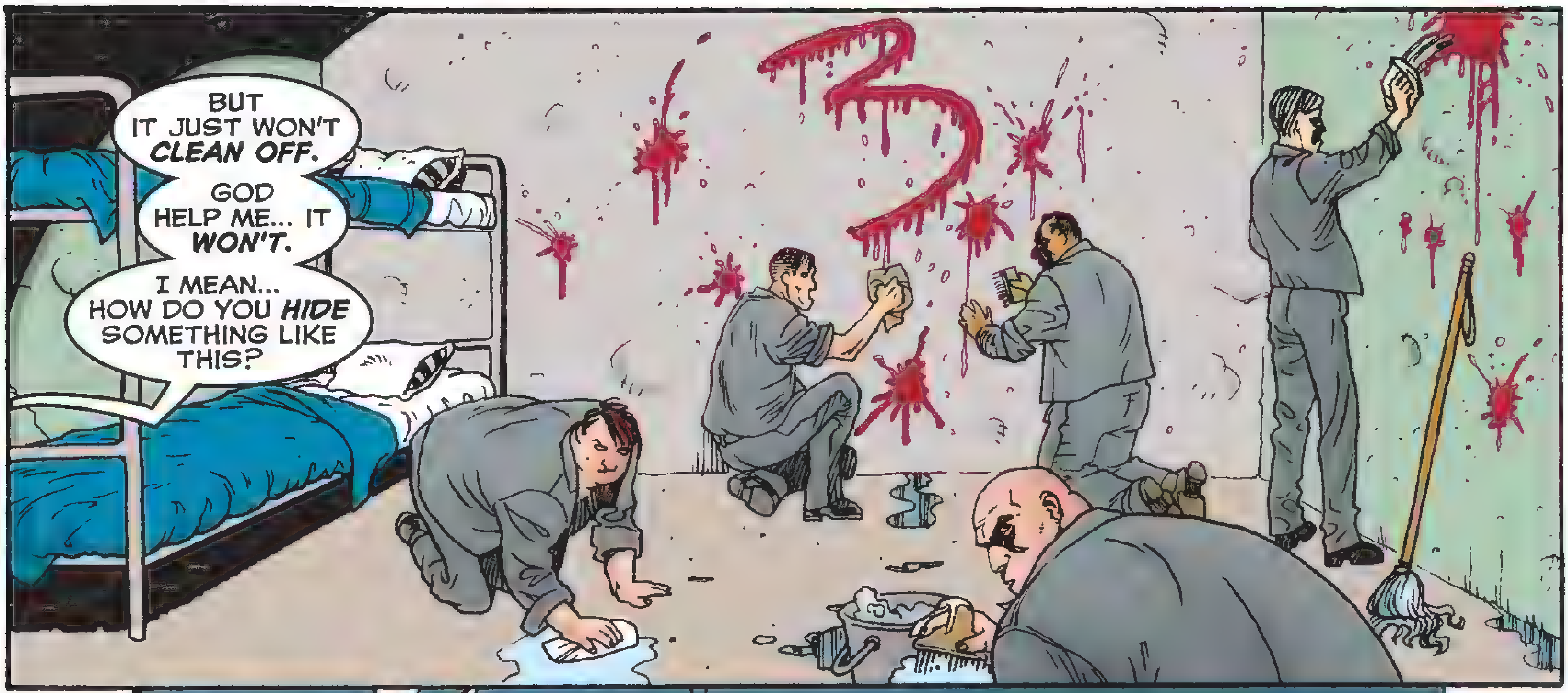
GOOD. NOW KISS ME, YOU STUPID IDIOT...
THEN I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT YOUR CREDIT RATING --
MY WHA--?
MMMMMF
IT'S A BIG KISS. A MOVIE KISS. A KISS DOWN TO MY FEET...
IT'S GOOD... REAL... RIGHT...
ALMOST ENOUGH TO KEEP ME FROM THINKING ABOUT NATASHA --
RRRING
THE PHONE -- MMMF!
HMM -- THE MACHINE.
BEDROOM.
HEY, YOU MISSED MATT AND KAREN, LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEP!
BEEP
MATTHEW? ROSALIND HERE. FRANKLIN TELLS ME THAT YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
DRINK SOME CHICKEN SOUP AND BE IN THE OFFICE AT SEVEN THIRTY. YOU HAVE A MOUNTAIN OF PAPER TO CLIMB BY NOON.
KAREN, DARLING, I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT I MADE A FEW CALLS...
...AND RADIO STATION WFSK HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RE-OPENED FOR BUSINESS!
AND GUESS WHO JUST PUT PAIGE ANGEL BACK ON THE AIRWAYS? YOU OWE ME, SWEETIE. TOODLES.
CLICK

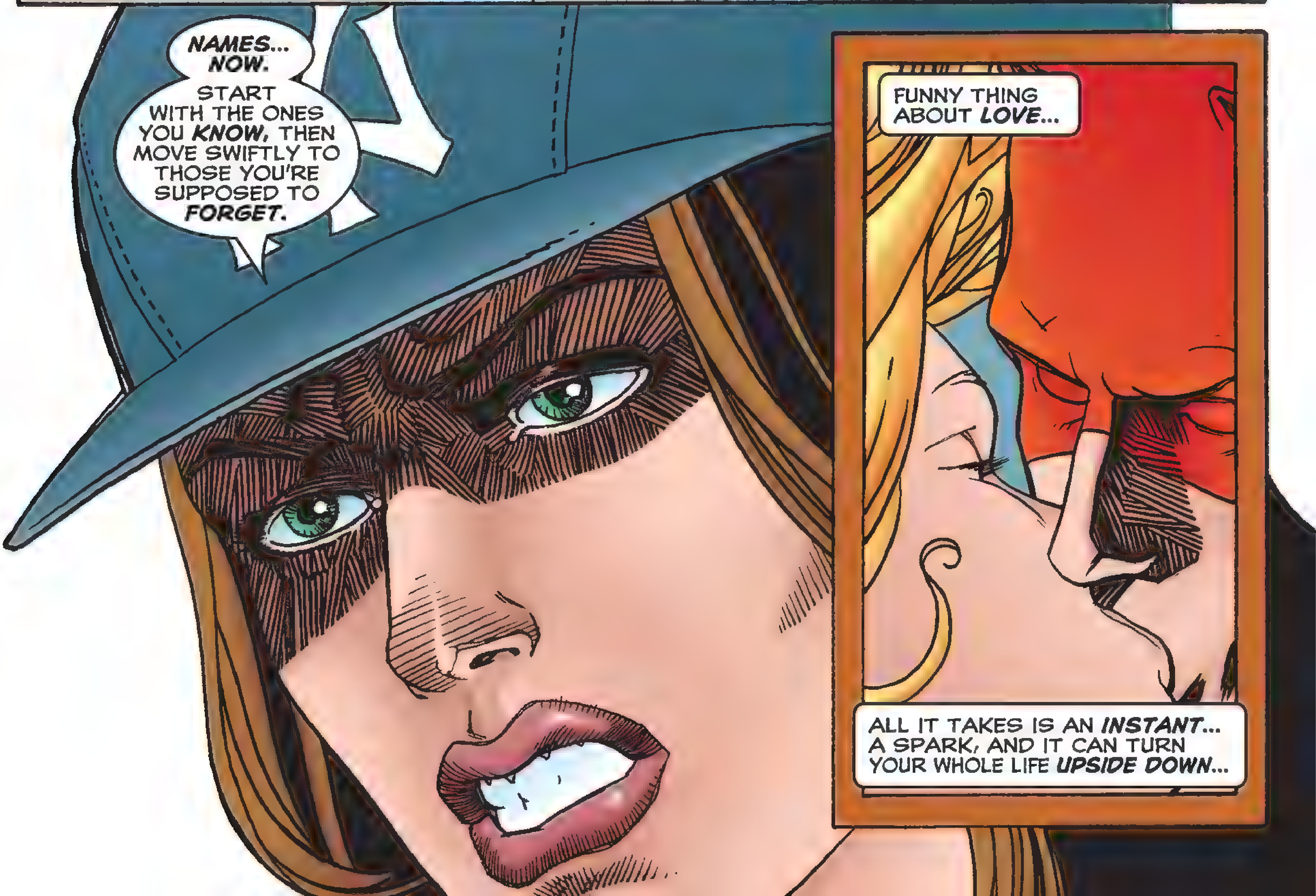
PROLOGUE
THE WITCHING HOUR ROCKS HARD BETWEEN OLD STONE WALLS, IN A STAINED-GLASSED STRUCTURE NOW CALLED THE LIMELIGHT...
...A CHURCH TURNED NIGHTCLUB THAT IN ITS TIME HAS ACCOMMODATED ACTS OF BOTH PIETY AND UTTER DEPRAVITY...
THE LIMELIGHT
Oh MY GAWD! YOU KNOW HOW TO SHAKE IT, MYSTERY MAN!
CHARLIE... CALL ME CHARLIE...
AS PROMISED, LADIES... ACTION FOR ALL.
WHAT ABOUT THAT LINE, NATE?
LINES DON'T EXIST WHEN NATE GREY'S RUNNING THE SHOW --
A LITTLE TELEPATHIC TWEAKING WITH THE BOUNCER AND --
UNGH--
SOMETHING WRONG?
Oooh... WE'RE MOVING FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONSHIP --
PSYCHIC INTERFERENCE COMING FROM THAT GUY..?
LIKE A WAVE... BUT NOW IT'S GONE...
NO... THOUGHT I KNEW THAT DUDE... GUESS I WAS WRONG.
SO... DOES THIS MAKE THIS THE PART WHERE I INVITED YOU BACK TO MY PLACE... FOR MOVES OF A DIFFERENT KIND?
THAT DEPENDS... IS YOUR FRIEND GOING TO BE THERE?
CANDACE? SHE'S CRASHING WITH HER LOSER BROTHER.
THE PLACE IS OURS. OURS ALONE.
PERFECT...
...WE'RE GONNA HAVE A KILLER OF A TIME, BABE... A KILLER.
BEGINNING.
NEXT GHOST RIDER

MARVEL® COMICS
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
FEB #372
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
IN THE GRIP OF--
--GHOST RIDER!®
KELLY OLIVETTI BRITO

DECEMBER, ON RIKER'S ISLAND.
WHERE NO HALLS WILL BE DECKED...
...NO SLEIGH BELLS WILL RING...
...AND NO ONE WILL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.
"WOULD IT REALLY KILL YOU TO TOSS A LITTLE GARLAND AROUND THIS JOINT..?"
LOOK, Ms. MALPHER, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVEN MADE IT THIS FAR, BUT YOU AN' YER AIDE GOTTA HOLD IT RIGHT THERE --
MAYBE A WREATH, HUNG HIGH ENOUGH SO THAT NO ONE COULD DO THEMSELVES IN ON IT, OF COURSE...
HEY! I SAID --
I HEARD YOU, OFFICER BRICK, BUT I'M TRYING TO IGNORE YOU SO I DON'T HAVE TO STRIP YOU OF THAT SHIELD YOU'RE HIDING BEHIND.
FINDING YOURSELF IN JAIL WOULDN'T GO OVER WELL WITH THE MISSUS RIGHT BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS, NOW WOULD IT?
I -- Oh MAN... THIS IS BAD, ISN'T IT?
MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. DEPENDS HOW DEEPLY YOU'RE INVOLVED, I SUPPOSE --
LOOK, I... THIS WAS NEVER SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN. NO ONE WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW.
YEAH, THAT'S USUALLY A MAJOR INGREDIENT TO THE WHOLE COVER-UP THING.
OPEN IT.
I CAN'T... I GOT ORDERS... FOR CRIMINY'S SAKE...
...I GOT KIDS...
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU HAVE... AND HOW MUCH I CAN TAKE AWAY FROM YOU IF I CHARGE YOU WITH CONSPIRACY, OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE...
...I CAN SLAP YOU WITH SO MUCH LAW YOU'LL THINK YOU GOT SUCKER-PUNCHED BY JUDGE WAPNER.
BUT DO THE RIGHT THING, HELP ME NOW, AND I PROMISE THE KIDS'LL HAVE A GOOSE IN THE OVEN FOR KWAANZA.
...
CRIPES... I GUESS WE COULDN'T HAVE HID THIS FOREVER ANYWAY.
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T EAT LUNCH YET...


Oh GOD... THAT SMELL...
I DON'T EVEN REALLY NOTICE IT ANYMORE. WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO CLEAN IT UP FOR MONTHS...
EVERY DAY SINCE THE ***RIOT***...


BUT IT JUST WON'T ***CLEAN OFF.***
GOD HELP ME... IT ***WON'T.***
I MEAN... HOW DO YOU ***HIDE*** SOMETHING LIKE THIS?


NAMES... NOW.
START WITH THE ONES YOU ***KNOW,*** THEN MOVE SWIFTLY TO THOSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO ***FORGET.***
FUNNY THING ABOUT ***LOVE...***
ALL IT TAKES IS AN ***INSTANT...*** A SPARK, AND IT CAN TURN YOUR WHOLE LIFE ***UPSIDE DOWN...***

...OR JUST AS **EFFICIENTLY** SET EVERYTHING **RIGHT** AGAIN.
1117
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee presents:
DEVIL AND THE DEMON
JOE KELLY WRITER
ARIEL OLIVETTI PENCILER
PIER BRITTO INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE BEFORE "THE LAST TEMPTATION" IN GHOST RIDER #90.
DON'T ASK ME HOW WE'RE KEEPING FROM FREEZING.
I **TRIED** TO TELL KAREN TO PUT ON SOMETHING WARM...
...WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN MY **LIPS** WERE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED.
WE REALLY NEED TO **COMMUTE** TOGETHER MORE **OFTEN**.

ANYTIME I GET WITHIN TEN BLOCKS OF THIS BUILDING, MY CHEST TIGHTENS.
THOUGH TODAY, I'M NOT SO SURE IF IT'S FROM MY LESS THAN FOND MEMORIES OF ITS FORMER PROPRIETOR...
WFSK
...OR MY LESS THAN FOND REGARDS FOR ITS CURRENT ONE.
ROSALIND SHARPE HAS MANAGED TO REOPEN THE RADIO STATION AFTER ITS USE IN A PLOT BY Mr. FEAR TO BRAINWASH THE CITY...
...AND REINSTATED KAREN AS HER LATE-NIGHT INGENUE.
GOOD FOR KAREN... BAD FOR KAREN'S BOYFRIEND.
OF COURSE... KAREN DOESN'T KNOW THAT I SWAPPED SPIT WITH THE BLACK WIDOW A FEW WEEKS AGO, SO I GUESS WE'RE EVEN...
...KIND OF... IN A WATCH-ME-RATIONALIZE SORT OF WAY. OKAY, MAYBE WE'RE NOT, BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO BRING IT UP. TODAY IS ABOUT HER, NOT US.
FIRST DAY BACK ON THE JOB, KAREN'S SO EXITED, HER HEARTBEAT'S BEEN LIKE A JACKHAMMER SINCE WE WOKE UP THIS MORNING.
I TRY TO RELAX HER A BIT, ASKING HER TO WATCH THE DOOR WHEN I CHANGE -- EVEN THOUGH I DON'T SENSE ANOTHER SOUL FOR ABOUT TEN FLOORS.
SHE'S SO NERVOUS, SHE DOESN'T EVEN THINK TWICE, HAPPY TO HAVE A DISTRACTION.
I WISH I COULD GET OVER MY GADFLIES AS EASILY...
AND THIS IS MY OFFICE -- Oh?
MATT... THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL! HOW SWEET OF YOU...
IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THOSE ROSES I SMELL, THANKS... BUT THEY'RE NOT FROM ME.
"TO KAREN, KNOCK 'EM DEAD! -- ROSALIND. P.S.... TELL MATTHEW HE'S LATE FOR WORK."
SHE'S EVERYWHERE... EVERYWHERE...

A FEW MOMENTS LATER, IN THE OFFICES OF SHARPE, NELSON AND MURDOCK...
I PAUSE AT THE THRESHOLD OF ROSALIND'S OFFICE... PARALYZED BY THE SOUND I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR EMANATE FROM THIS ROOM...
...THE RUBBERY STRETCH OF CONTRACTING FACIAL MUSCLES... THAT INDICATE A SMILE TO HYPER-SENSITIVE EARS.
Mr. MURDOCK! ISN'T IT A SIMPLY BREATHTAKING MORNING? A FINE DAY TO BE ALIVE, COUNSELOR!
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FRIGHTENED.
CONFUSED. AWESTRUCK. CURIOUS.
DO GO ON.
HOW SLASH WHY DID YOU RE-OPEN WFSK FOR BUSINESS?
TO BEGIN WITH THE LATTER... I'VE BEEN A LOYAL FAN OF WFSK SINCE ITS INCEPTION.
I WOULD GO AS FAR AS TO SAY THAT I CONSIDER SOME OF ITS MORE COLORFUL ON-AIR PERSONALITIES... TO BE VALUED FRIENDS.
I WAS SIMPLY DEVASTATED TO LEARN THAT THIS BEACON IN THE MORASS OF NEW YORK RADIO WAS GOING TO WASTE...
...JUST TO SUPPORT ONE GLORY HOUND-ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OVERBLOWN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.
SO, AS I AM APT TO DO... I PICKED A FIGHT TO SAVE IT. THINK OF IT AS AN ACT OF MERCY. THAT'S YOUR "WHY"...
...AS PER THE HOW... WELL... YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT THE ANSWER TO THAT ONE YOURSELF, MATTHEW...
...BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO BE YOUR CASE TO FIGHT AGAINST THE CITY.
YOU'RE KIDDING.
NOT BLOODY LIKELY.
YOU'RE THE ATTORNEY ON THE WFSK CASE. YOU WORK FOR KAREN NOW TOO...
WHY? WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING --?
I'D TELL YOU TO ASK YOUR LOVELY GIRLFRIEND...
...BUT YOU'RE PROBABLY SO BUSY PLANNING YOUR NEXT NIGHT OUT THAT YOU'LL FORGET TO ASK.

MEANWHILE, MORNING REARS ITS UGLY HEAD IN A SECTION OF THE CITY WHERE THE NIGHT HOLDS SWAY...
...THE VILLAGE.
CRISTO WEY
VILLAGE CIGARS
TONY
PIPES UMBRELLAS
BOOKS
"...AND I THINK... I THINK THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING..."
"...ESPECIALLY NOT ABOUT THE BLOSSOM THAT THROWS ITSELF FROM THE BRANCH...
"...PAST THE WINDOW WITH ITS CHARCOAL SHADES...
"... AND INTO A MUDDY PUDDLE ON THE HAIGHT."
I'M SORRY, I'M NOT USED TO READING MY STUFF TO PEOPLE I'VE JUST MET, MARISSA...
BUT NOW THAT WE'VE SHARED... WHAT WE SHARED...
DID YOU LIKE THAT? I WROTE THAT RIGHT AFTER MY FIRST TIME... YOU KNOW..?
Prodigy
MINISTRY
MARISSA..?
SIGH AND THAT'S WHY I DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL... NO ONE COULD STAY AWAKE THROUGH MY POETRY.
THANK GOD I FOUND ANOTHER CALLING...
DEDEET
SPEAKING OF CALLING...
YESSS?
HOLA, BOSS.

CHARLES. SPLENDID. IS SHE DEAD?
WHO ISN'T?
THAT'S MY BOY... NOW PAY ATTENTION...
WORD ON THE STREET IS, CRIME IN NEW YORK CITY IS DOWN.
MURDERS, MOST NOTICEABLY, HAVE TAKEN A STATISTICAL NOSE-DIVE... ESPECIALLY THOSE OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.
THIS IS A GOOD THING IF YOU HAPPEN TO LIVE IN NEW YORK... BUT IT'S A SPECTACULAR NOTION IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE DANNY KETCH.
IT MEANS YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF.
MAN... IF THERE WAS EVER A DAY TO BE OUT AND ALIVE, THIS IS IT... THINK I'LL SHOOT DOWN TO THE PARK, CHECK OUT --
DANNY.
... Oh MAN... NO, NOT TODAY...
DANNY... SOMETHING IS HAPPENING...
BUT... IT ISN'T EVEN NIGHT YET... YOU... YOU PROMISED I'D HAVE TODAY...
SOMETHING IS HERE... I'VE SENSED IT FOR A WHILE... A SICKLY HUM... A TWINGE...
IT HAS GROWN TOO STRONG TO IGNORE.
BUT...
PREPARE FOR ME.
THIS IS BAD... ROSALIND SHARPE IS NOT A WOMAN ONE WANTS MUCKING AROUND IN ONE'S PERSONAL LIFE...
WHY'S SHE TAKEN SUCH AN INTEREST IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH KAREN?

THEY '*BONDED*' THE DAY AFTER I RAN OUT ON KAREN TO CHASE THE BLACK WIDOW --
-- THOUGH I'D ALWAYS ASSUMED YOU NEEDED A HEART TO BOND TO ANOTHER PERSON.
HOLD THE DOOR!
WHAT DOES ROSALIND KNOW ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH KAREN? MORE TO THE POINT...
...WHAT DOES ***KAREN*** THINK SHE KNOWS ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR NATASHA?!
I SAID ***HOLD IT!***
KTHUNK
WHAT ARE YOU, ***DEAF?***
NO, BUT YOU'RE GETTING WARM... PICK ANOTHER DISABILITY AND GUESS AGAIN.
MURDOCK. GREAT. YOU HERE FOR ME?
ACTUALLY, YES. WE NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR MOTION TO KEEP WFSK CLOSED --
Oh, SO ***NOW*** ROSALIND WANTS TO PLAY BY THE RULES? I DON'T THINK SO.
WFSK IS PART OF AN ***ONGOING*** INVESTIGATION. ROSALIND'S GOING TO HAVE TO TRY A LOT HARDER THAN JUST SENDING HER ***MOUTHPIECE*** IF --
RRINGG
MOUTHPIECE?
THAT WOULD BE ***YOU,*** COUNSELOR.
DON'T GET UPSET... HERE, HOLD THIS.
WHAT --?
LOUISVILLE SLUGGER... IT'S THERAPEUTIC. ***MALPHER*** HERE.
*JUDGE CHALMER HERE. I'LL MAKE THIS **BRIEF,** MALPHER. I'M **DENYING** YOUR PETITION TO INTERVIEW THE WARDEN OVER AT RIKERS.*
HE'S NOT INVOLVED IN THIS.
NOT ***INVOLVED?!*** THE RIOT WAS IN ***HIS*** PRISON! SIR, ***TWO*** MEN ARE DEAD, AND HE KNOWS --
*NO ONE ESCAPED FROM THAT PRISON, MALPHER, AND UNLESS YOU HAVE A **BODY,** NO ONE WAS KILLED, **EITHER!***
HYPER-SENSES PICK UP THE JUDGE'S VOICE CLEAR AS DAY... THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THE RIOT Mr. FEAR CAUSED A FEW MONTHS AGO...
BUT THERE ***WERE*** NO CASUALTIES... I WAS ***THERE!***

SIR! I SAW THE BLOOD *MYSELF* --
DON'T WASTE ANY MORE OF MY TIME WITH THIS, KATHY. DROP IT... ...I'D HATE TO HAVE TO ***REASSESS*** *YOUR POSITION WITH THE CITY.*
KLIK
EXCUSE ME, COUNSELOR... MAY I?
BAD NEWS?
NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.
SKRAKK
SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WAS ***THERAPEUTIC.***
MALPHER'S PULSE RATE IS RUNNING ***FULL TILT!*** SHE'S ***CONVINCED*** THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED DOWN AT RIKERS THAT WENT BEYOND THE RIOT...
COULD THIS REALLY BE A COVER-UP, OR IS KATHY DIGGING FOR HEADLINES LIKE ROSALIND SAYS?
IF THERE'S EVEN A CHANCE THIS IS RELATED TO ***Mr. FEAR, THERE'S*** NO WAY I CAN AFFORD ***NOT*** TO GET INVOLVED.
LOOKS LIKE THE ***ADA*** JUST GOT A NEW ADDITION TO HER INVESTIGATIVE TEAM...
THERE, I DID IT. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?

WELL?
YOU CAN AT LEAST SAY *SOMETHING!* I --
PLEASE...
JUDGE CHA
YOU DID FINE, YOUR HONOR... BUT THE *REAL* LIFE OR DEATH QUESTION IS...
...DO I LOOK *FAT* IN THIS?
COME ON... YOU CAN TELL ME.
ALMER
PAIGE ANGEL?
YES... I MEAN, *NO*... KAREN PAGE. PAIGE ANGEL IS MY *PSEUDONYM.*
HEY, YOU CAN CALL YOURSELF *BIGFOOT* IF YOU WANT, SO LONG AS YOU DO IT ON CUE!
PATRICK HINDS. I'M YOUR NEW *ENGINEER.* WELCOME TO YOUR COMEBACK.
WFSK
GOSH, IS IT REALLY A COMEBACK? THANKS... YOU'VE *OFFICIALLY* MADE ME MORE NERVOUS THAN I WAS THIS MORNING.
DON'T WORRY, KAREN. I'VE HEARD YOUR SHOW... YOU'VE GOT IT LOCKED DOWN.
AND ON THE OFF CHANCE A LITTLE SQUEAK SNEAKS INTO THAT SILKY VOICE OF YOURS...
...A TWIST OF A *KNOB,* FLIP OF A *SWITCH,* AND I GUARANTEE THAT THE ANGEL GETS HER *WINGS* BACK.
UNLESS THEY GET *CLIPPED* BY THE PRODUCER THE SECOND WE GET *CONTROVERSIAL,* RIGHT?
Oh, I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, EITHER.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I'M TOO BUSY PULLING THE WINGS OFF OF *FLIES* AND *KICKING PUPPIES* TO CENSOR MY EMPLOYEES.
Oh...

KIDDING, OF COURSE.
ALTHOUGH, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I CAN STAND BEHIND YOU AND BREATHE DOWN YOUR NECK ALL NIGHT...
I -- Oh, NO... BUT... I MEAN --
BEEP. START OVER.
HELLO, I'M KAREN PAGE. NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'LL PICK UP MY FACE IN JUST A MOMENT.
IAN HUNTER, AND DON'T WORRY, YOUR FACE IS JUST PERFECT AS IT IS.
THANKS...
A PLEASURE.
ALL MINE.
...
...
Oh... SORRY...
I GUESS YOU WANT YOUR HAND BACK NOW...
GUESS SO.
I MUST HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER. IS THIS THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AT RIKERS OR A MASONRY SHOP?
'CAUSE ALL I'M GETTING FROM YOU SCHMUCKS IS THE STONEWALL!
IF I DON'T START GETTING A LITTLE HELP AROUND HERE, SOMEONE IN THAT OFFICE IS GOING TO GET TO SEE THE PRISON FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARS! HELLO? HELLO?
NY
NEW YORK
I THINK HE HUNG UP ON YOU.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO FILE, BRENDA? OR ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STATE THE OBVIOUS ALL DAY?
NO, I -- Huh?
SLAMM

EEK!
'EEK'? THAT'S IT? JUST AN 'EEK'?
'EEK' IS FOR LITTLE CRITTERS... MICE AND ROACHES...
...AND PERHAPS FOR SPIDEY IF HE CATCHES YOU IN THE SHOWER, BUT COME ON...
...I HAVE HORNS. I'M SCARY. I AT LEAST RANK AN "OHMY-GAWD."
OHMYGAWD OHMYGAWD OHMYGAWD OHMYGAWD OHMYGAWD
THANKS... THAT'S THE THIRD CLERK THIS WEEK WHO LEFT MY OFFICE SCREAMING.
TRY SOME SENSITIVITY TRAINING. IT WORKED WONDERS FOR ME.
SO, A LITTLE BIRD TELLS ME THAT YOU'VE GOT A BREAK IN THE Mr. FEAR CASE.
YOUR BIRD IS WRONG. ALL I HAVE ARE A LOT OF TIGHT LIPS AND TWO MISSING CORPSES. I WOULDN'T CALL THAT A BREAK.
WE'LL SEE. TELL ME WHAT YOU DO KNOW.
WHEN Mr. FEAR INCITED THE RIOT AT RIKERS, SUPPOSEDLY NO ONE WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED.
PERSONNEL RECORDS AND PRISONER MANIFESTS SHOW THAT EVERYONE IS ALIVE AND ACCOUNTED FOR.
THEN I GET AN ANONYMOUS TIP THAT THE RIOT WAS A COVER TO BREAK OUT A PRISONER WHO DOESN'T EXIST ON ANY RECORD.
WHAT?! I WAS THERE! THERE WAS NO -- WHO?!
I DON'T KNOW. ALL I'VE GOT ARE RUMORS, AND ONE ESPECIALLY MESSY CELL IN A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF RIKERS, COVERED IN BLOOD. NO BODIES.
BLOOD? THE RIOT WAS WEEKS AGO.
YEAH, NO DUH. THIS WHOLE THING IS WEIRD. LINGERING BLOOD, NO BODIES, MYSTERY PRISONERS... AND ZERO COOPERATION FROM NYC OFFICIALS.
SO YOU THINK THAT FEAR ARRANGED THE RIOT TO SPRING RIKER'S MYSTERY GUEST, AND THAT CITY OFFICIALS ARE IN ON IT?
THAT'S WHAT I THINK.
IF IT IS THAT BAD... IF FEAR HAS THE CITY IN HIS POCKET, ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO GO THE DISTANCE...
...EVEN IF IT MEANS YOUR CAREER... YOUR LIFE?
HEY, IF NOT ME... THEN WHO, RIGHT?
THIS IS AN UGLY ONE, HORNHEAD...
I COULD USE AN EDGE...
YOU'VE GOT ONE. WHERE DO WE START?
THE WARDEN.

AFTER ONE BILLY-CLUB JUNKET UPTOWN...
SO... PLAN 'A': INTERCEPT OUR FRIENDLY CORRUPT WARDEN AT HOME, ENGAGE HIM IN A PLEASANT CHAT ABOUT MISSING PRISONERS, DEAD GUARDS AND Mr. FEAR...
...WHILE HANGING HIM UPSIDE DOWN FROM THE ROOF BY HIS ANKLES.
THE INTERROGATION OF THE UNETHICAL... IT'S A GOOD THING.
AIGHH!
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE BEAT ME TO HIM. MAYBE FEAR IS GETTING ANTSY, TYING UP LOOSE ENDS...
...SO, OVER TO PLAN 'B'...
...IMPROVISATION.
KISSHH
I ASSESS EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM THROUGH MY HYPER-SENSES BEFORE THE GLASS TINKLES TO THE FLOOR...
...HELLO? NOW THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED GLITCH.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, SINNER?
HAVE YOU ANY CONCEPT OF WHAT YOU HAVE UNLEASHED?
OH, GOD, HELP!
YOUR GOD CANNOT SAVE YOU NOW... YOU ARE AT THE MERCY OF... GHOST RIDER!

EVEN BEFORE HE BREAKS INTO HIS *'VENGEANCE RAP'*, I KNOW IT'S GHOST RIDER...
...A STENCH NOT UNLIKE ***BURNING CHALK***... OR THE INSIDE OF A ***CONFESSIONAL*** SMOTHERED IN ***GASOLINE***... FOLLOWS HIM EVERYWHERE.
I ALSO KNOW FROM HIS BODY LANGUAGE THAT HE'S ABOUT TO PUT THE PENANCE STARE TO MY TARGET...
...AND THAT WOULD PUT A SERIOUS ***CRIMP*** IN MY SHORT TERM GOALS FOR THE DAY.
DAREDEVIL?! WHAT --?!
WHOULFF!
HATE TO BREAK UP A PERFECTLY GOOD ***CASTIGATION,*** GHOSTIE, BUT I NEED TO ASK THE GOOD WARDEN A FEW QUESTIONS...
...AND I PREFER THAT HE BE ABLE TO ANSWER THEM WITHOUT DROOLING AND SPITTING UP ALL OVER HIMSELF.
I HAVE A ***SENSITIVE STOMACH.***
DO NOT ***BOTHER*** WITH THIS ONE, DEVIL... HIS ***LOT*** HAS ALREADY BEEN CAST...
HOW ABOUT A ***COMPROMISE?*** WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO WAIT UNTIL ***AFTER*** WE CHAT TO TURN HIM INTO A BABBLING IDIOT?
VENGEANCE WAITS FOR ***NO*** MAN!
⦂SIGH⦂ IT'S TOUGH TO CRACK JOKES WHEN YOUR AUDIENCE HAS NO CONCEPT OF HUMOR...
...AND SIXTEEN FEET OF RAZOR-SHARP ENCHANTED CHAIN LINK.
YOU HAVE ***NO IDEA*** WHAT YOU'RE ***DEALING*** WITH!
NAH. I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA. ***EXECUTION*** WITHOUT THE ***TRIAL,*** EYE FOR AN EYE... I THINK I'LL STAY. THANKS.
FWISSH
FOOL.

YOU ARE MAKING A GRAVE MISTAKE.
FWAT
SOUNDS LIKE DD'S IN TROUBLE... BETTER CALL FOR BACKUP... WHERE'S THE CELL --
Ms. MALPHER, REALLY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD COME OVER TO MY CAR, IT'S DOWN THE STREET... WHERE IT'S SAFE --
HE'S COMING! HE'S --
YOU! GET ME OUT OF HERE!
WHOULF!
ME?
LOOK, ⋟NNGHH⋞ RIDER, I'M SURE THAT WE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK THIS OUT... MAYBE OVER ⋟UNGH⋞ A DRINK?
YOU TAKE MILK, RIGHT?
YOU ARE TRYING MY PATIENCE, DAREDEVIL! NOTHING MUST STAND IN THE WAY OF VENGEANCE...
ESPECIALLY NOT TODAY!
SCREECH
ALL RIGHT, LOOK, HE'S GETTING AWAY NOW, SEE? IS THAT BETTER THAN US WORKING TOGETHER TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE?
I FOR ONE DON'T THINK SO --
ENOUGH! LEAVE ME TO MY DARK WORK, DEVIL. LEST THE EYE OF VENGEANCE FALL ON YOU...

...ONE WHO SO **RICHLY** DESERVES IT!
BECAUSE YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AWAKENING OF THIS EVIL!
EXCUSE ME?
WHOULFF!
HOW AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS? THIS IS ***Mr. FEAR'S*** PARTY! YOU'RE NOT ABOUT TO PIN THIS ON ***ME***, MISTER.
DARED -- OH MY GOD...
YOU... I...
...ARE YOU ***FRIGHTENED*** BY MY IMAGE?
YOU SHOULD ***NOT*** BE.
DEEP DOWN... BEYOND THE ***ARTIFICE*** OF THE FLESH...
...WE ARE THE ***SAME***, YOU AND I.
REMEMBER THAT IN THE DAYS TO COME, KATHY MALPHER...
...THE ***SAME.***
VROOOM

BACK'S ON FIRE... CRACKED A FLOATING RIB. EACH STEP'S LIKE A KNIFE TWISTING IN MY SPINE...
...BUT I CAN'T LET GHOST RIDER GET AWAY WITH THIS. NOT ONLY WON'T I SIT BY AND WATCH HIM METE OUT HIS OWN, UNIQUE VERSION OF JUSTICE...
...BUT I HAVE TO KNOW WHAT HE MEANT ABOUT HIS BEING CONNECTED TO ME.
OF COURSE, THAT WOULD REQUIRE CATCHING UP TO HIM... AND I DON'T THINK KATHY'S KLUNKY ADA-MOBILE IS GOING TO CUT IT.
WH -- WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
A LITTLE DRIVE-THROUGH JUSTICE... DEMON STYLE. DON'T BE TOO IMPRESSED, THOUGH.
I HEAR HE DOES THAT FIRE THING WITH MIRRORS.
WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO WHEN HE CATCHES HIM?
WITH ANY LUCK... WE WON'T HAVE TO FIND OUT.
WHEN IN HELL...
TTR
SKREEECH
NAPOLI
BE CAREFUL! I SIGNED THIS CAR OUT OF THE AUTO POOL!
SHUT UP, YOU TWIT! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
OKAY, CALM DOWN... HE'LL NEVER COME AFTER ME... NOT WHEN I HAVE A HOSTAGE --
HOSTAGE? Oh DEAR... WHAT DID THEY TEACH US ABOUT CRISIS MANAGEMENT... DON'T PANIC --
HOLY @*$%!! WHAT'S THAT?!
Oh MY GOD...

I KNOW YOU, ***SINNER!*** I HAVE VISITED YOUR PRISON! I HAVE ***SMELLED*** YOUR ***DISEASE!***
I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DESECRATED ITS HALLS WITH THAT WHICH DOES NOT BELONG!
NOT ONLY HAVE YOU VIOLATED THE TWO MEN ***SLAUGHTERED*** AT THE PRISON... BUT ALL OF HUMANITY! FOR THAT...
...***PENANCE*** WILL BE ***PAID!***
SCHRRPP
SMASH
NO... WE DIDN'T ***KNOW...*** NEVER EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE ***THIS...***
Oh...
HAIL MARY, MOTHER OF ***GOD...***

THIS *SEEMED* LIKE A GOOD IDEA AT THE TIME...
BUT IT'S TAKING EVERY OUNCE OF CONCENTRATION TO CUT THROUGH THE SHRIEK OF THE BIKE'S ENGINE AND MAKE USE OF MY RADAR SENSE.
FIVE MORE MINUTES OF *THIS*, AND I'M JUST GOING TO BE *ANOTHER BLIND MAN* DRIVING A MOTORCYCLE AT HIGH SPEEDS THROUGH *MANHATTAN*.
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR SHOWBOATING.
RADALI
SO MUCH OF THIS STILL DOESN'T RING CLEAR TO ME. GHOSTIE ONLY GETS INVOLVED WHEN INNOCENT BLOOD HAS BEEN SPILLED...
BUT IF THE MURDERS IN QUESTION TOOK PLACE WEEKS AGO, WHY APPEAR NOW?
IS THIS PART OF Mr. FEAR'S OVERALL PLAN?
NO TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT NOW. THE *BONEHEAD* BIKER HAS TRAPPED THE *WARDEN*...
HOW CAN I KEEP GHOSTIE FROM MIND-WIPING HIM..?
Oh, THIS IS GONNA HURT...
VROOOOM

I RECOGNIZE THE STAIN ON YOU... SOMETHING ANCIENT... DARK...
A MALFEASANT MELODY... WHISPERED SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME... BUT WHERE DO I KNOW IT FROM?
VRRRRRRRRRR
BLAZES!
ARRGH!
SMASH
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A LEATHER BAG OF BONES, GHOST RIDER'S A PRETTY RESILIENT FELLOW, SO I CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE THE PATH OF SUBTLETY...
OF COURSE...
...I DIDN'T COUNT ON THE FULL TANK OF GAS EITHER.
WHOOPS. I HOPE THAT DOESN'T TICK HIM OFF.
WARDEN! WARDEN?!
NGGHH... GH... LCHH...

I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY... I'M SORRY...
NO... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?! WHAT DID FEAR HAVE YOU *DO?*
ANSWER ME!
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN SERVED, DEVIL --
THE MAN *CANNOT* ANSWER YOU NOW... HIS VOICE IS LOST TO THE FIRE OF *PENANCE.*
YOU *SELF-RIGHTEOUS* -- DID YOU AT LEAST HEAR HIS *CONFESSION* BEFORE YOU PASSED JUDGMENT?
WHERE IS THE *JUSTICE* IN THIS?!
SILENCE, DEVIL!
TWICE NOW, YOUR IMPETUOUSNESS AND AUDACITY HAVE DERAILED MY WILL --
-- *TWICE* YOU HAVE INTERRUPTED ME, BOTH IN WORD AND DEED...
...BUT NOW... YOU WILL *LISTEN!*

HIS VOICE... INSIDE MY HEAD... CAN'T... MOVE...
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN SERVED... BUT **NOT** IN THE WAY I HAD INTENDED...
I WAS ATTRACTED TO THIS MAN BECAUSE OF FORCES AT WORK FAR BEYOND YOUR **KEN,** DAREDEVIL --
-- AND IN YOUR **ZEAL** FOR SO-CALLED **"JUSTICE,"** YOU PREVENTED ME FROM LEARNING THE **TRUTH** ABOUT THE MURDERER YOU SEEK WHEN YOU INTERRUPTED THE **PENANCE STARE.**
HIS **FINGERS**... HIS FINGERS ARE IN MY **MIND!**
WHAT HAS BEEN **UNLEASHED** IS AN EVIL UNLIKE **ANY** YOU HAVE FACED.
THE VERY **WORST** HUMANITY HAS TO OFFER.
COLD... WHAT'S HE **SAYING?** I CAN ONLY HEAR... **COLD...**
I HAD HOPED TO **PREVENT** THE SPILLING OF MORE INNOCENT BLOOD, BUT FOR NOW, I WILL HAVE TO **WAIT**... BECAUSE OF **YOU.**
THIS DOES **NOT** PLEASE ME.
SO KNOW THIS, DEVIL... WHAT COMES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD...
...IS **YOUR**...
...RESPONSIBILITY...
...ALONE.
COLD...
...
AND WE'RE LIVE AGAIN, IN THREE... TWO...
KNOCK 'EM DEAD, **ANGEL...**
ONE.

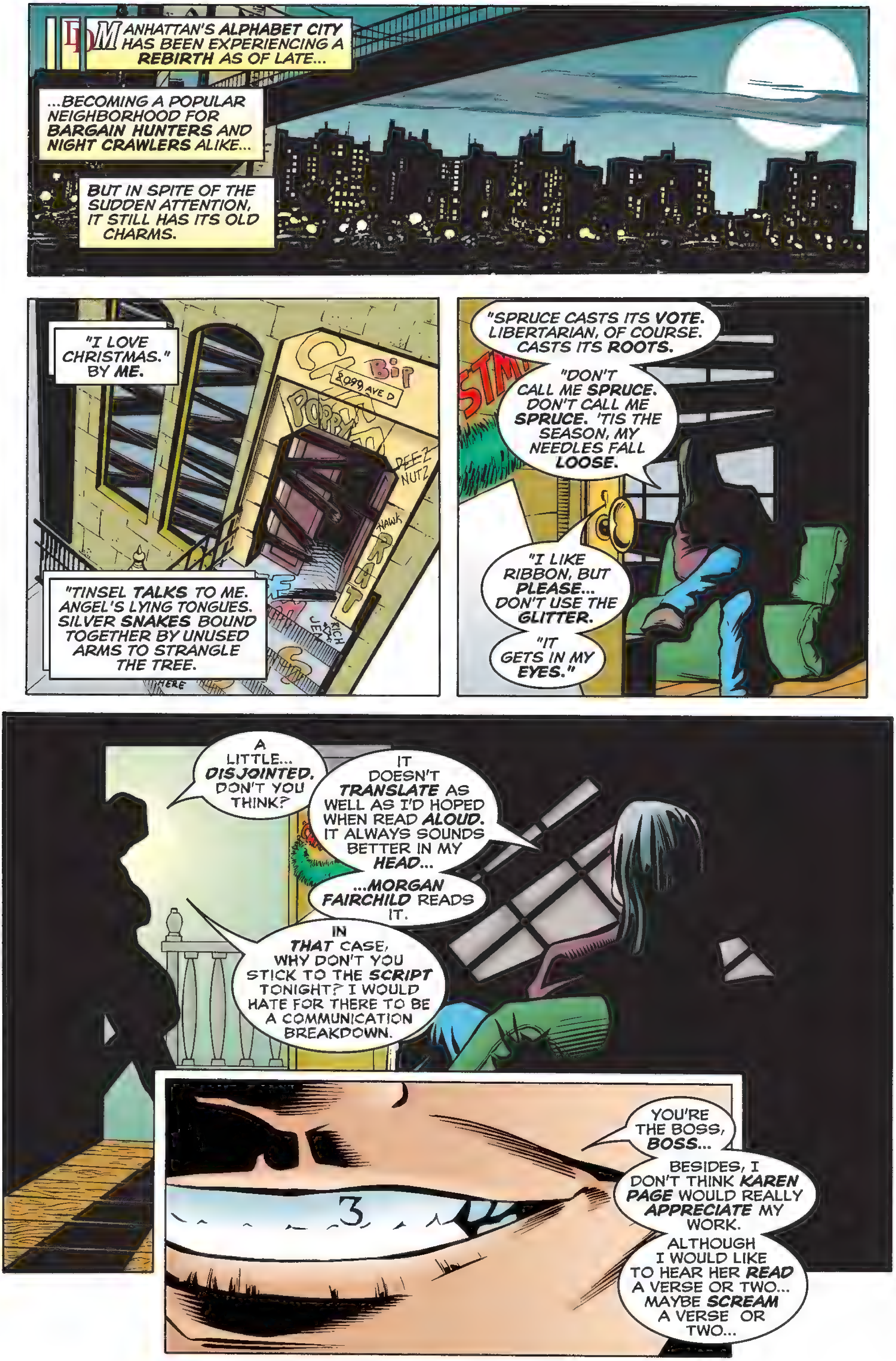
ALRIGHT, ***NIGHT-DWELLERS...*** WE'VE PAID THE BILLS, WE CAN AFFORD TO STAY ON-AIR FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF ***HOURS...***
WHAT DO YOU SAY WE ***TURN DOWN*** THE LIGHTS AND MAKE ***TALK*** BEFORE MOM AND DAD CATCH US?
OKAY, CALLER, YOU'RE ON THE ***AIR...*** TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE ***THINKING...***
...
HELLO? IF YOU WANT THE ***DEAD AIR*** STATION THAT'S AT THE OTHER END OF THE DIAL --
*I JUST WANTED TO **TELL YOU...YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART.***
WELL, ***THANKS...*** I --
*I CAN'T WAIT TO **EAT** IT.*
KLIK
WHOA. ***EXCELLENT. FIRST*** NIGHT BACK ON THE AIR AND ONE OF NYC'S ***WEIRDEST*** SNEAKS IN... PATRICK, YOU'RE ***FIRED.***
OKAY, YOU'RE ***FIRED*** AGAIN... IT'S ***LIVE RADIO,*** KIDS! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND ENTERTAINMENT LIKE THAT ON ***MUST SEE TV...***
PETER, FROM FOREST HILLS...YOU'RE ***ON...***
KLIK
WE ARE GOING TO HAVE ***SUCH*** A GOOD TIME TOGETHER... KAREN...
SUCH A GOOD TIME.
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
MAR #373
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WWW.MARVEL.COM
KELLY
RAAB
ACOSTA
LaROSA
FEAR & LOATHING

MANHATTAN.
Oh...
THE CITY THAT NEVER SLEEPS...
I CAN'T DESCRIBE HOW **GOOD** THIS FEELS...
TRY...
BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING MORE... **STIMULATING** THAN SNORING TO DO WHEN THE LIGHTS GO DOWN.
WILL THE STANDARD **GRUNTING** AND **MOANING** SUFFICE?
YES.
EXCELLENT... Mmmm Oh, I LIKE **THAT...**
YEAHHH... AND -- **HOLD ON** --
-- WHERE **EXACTLY** ARE YOU GOING WITH THAT **CUCUMBER?**
TRUST ME.
OKAY... I WAS WITH YOU ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DURING THE AROMA THERAPY... AND I COULD **EVEN** BUY THE ALGAE MASK...
...BUT YOU LOST ME WITH THE **CHEF'S** SALAD.
PUFFY EYES. JUST BECAUSE YOU HIDE THEM BEHIND **BLIND MAN'S SUNGLASSES** ALL DAY DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CARRY **GROCERIES** IN THEM, **MATT.**

NEXT TIME I'M SAVING SOME KID FROM BLADING IN FRONT OF A BUS, I'LL REMEMBER TO TAKE A *TIME-OUT* AND PUT MY FACE IN A PRODUCE CART.
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TRY PICKING YOURSELF UP A **LOOFA SPONGE.** YOU NEED TO EXFOLIATE ***BIG TIME,*** HON.
THAT MASK OF YOUR CHAFES WORSE THAN BAD JEANS.
WHAT THE HECK IS A ***LOOFA?***
FORGET IT... I WON'T PUSH MY LUCK. I'M AMAZED YOU LET ME TAKE IT ***THIS*** FAR...
I HOPE THAT YOU'RE NOT JUST ***HUMORING*** ME...
KAREN, TO SOMEONE WITH ***HYPER-SENSITIVE*** SKIN WHO CAN FEEL EVERY PORE, EVERY ***HAIR*** ON HIS BODY... THIS IS RELAXING ME BEYOND WORDS.
YOU'VE ***ACTUALLY*** TAKEN MY MIND OFF THIS LATEST MYSTERY FOR ALL OF FIFTEEN SECONDS... THAT'S NO SMALL FEAT.
WELL, EVEN ***DAREDEVIL*** NEEDS A LITTLE ***PAMPERING*** FROM TIME TO TIME...
...AND IT'S A GOOD WAY TO KEEP YOU ***STILL*** LONG ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY CARRY ON A CONVERSATION.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT WITH ALL THAT ***GOOK*** ON YOUR FACE.
I KNOW I'M GETTING ***CLOSE,*** BUT THERE ARE SO MANY CURVE BALLS COMING MY WAY...
...A DOUBLE ***MURDER*** WITH NO ***BODIES...*** A MYSTERY PRISONER WITH NO ***RECORD...***
...AND THEN ***GHOST RIDER*** SHOWS UP AND COMPLETELY THROWS ME FOR A LOOP.
MOST GUYS I KNOW HARDLY MAKE USE OF GOOD OL' ***SOAP AND WATER...***
...PUT IT THIS WAY, BE THANKFUL ***RADIO*** ONLY CATCHES ***SOUNDS... PE-YEW!***

ALTHOUGH... THERE IS **ONE** GUY AT THE STATION...
...**IAN HUNTER** -- MY SHOW'S NEW **PRODUCER..?** HE'S DIFFERENT THAN MOST OF THE GUYS. SLICK... **VERY** WELL GROOMED...
...I'D EVEN GO AS FAR AS TO SAY... **DEBONAIR.** I MEAN... YOU KNOW... FOR A PRODUCER.
*"THIS IS **YOUR** RESPONSIBILITY..."* HE SAYS... IN THAT ICY VOICE OF HIS... THAT **GOT** TO ME...
WELL... DEBONAIR FOR ***ANYONE...***
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT **UNREASONABLE** TO BE CONCERNED WITH A GUY WITH A **FLAMING SKULL** FOR A HEAD.
HE COULD'VE SAID, *"YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB, HAVE A NICE DAY,"* AND I'D **STILL** HAVE THE **HEEBIE-JEEBIES.**
HE'S DOING A NICE JOB SO FAR... BUT I WONDER IF HE'S REALLY AS **COOL** AS HE COMES OFF...
WHAT AM I MISSING?
MY RESPONSIBILITY... WHAT DID HE MEAN?
A ***NICE*** GUY...
I'M SORRY, KAREN, WHAT DID YOU SAY?
WHAT? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?


DD
MANHATTAN'S ALPHABET CITY HAS BEEN EXPERIENCING A REBIRTH AS OF LATE...
...BECOMING A POPULAR NEIGHBORHOOD FOR BARGAIN HUNTERS AND NIGHT CRAWLERS ALIKE...
BUT IN SPITE OF THE SUDDEN ATTENTION, IT STILL HAS ITS OLD CHARMS.
"I LOVE CHRISTMAS." BY ME.
8099 AVE D
DEEZ NUTZ
HAWK
RAT
RICH
HERE
"TINSEL TALKS TO ME. ANGEL'S LYING TONGUES. SILVER SNAKES BOUND TOGETHER BY UNUSED ARMS TO STRANGLE THE TREE.
"SPRUCE CASTS ITS VOTE. LIBERTARIAN, OF COURSE. CASTS ITS ROOTS.
"DON'T CALL ME SPRUCE. DON'T CALL ME SPRUCE. 'TIS THE SEASON, MY NEEDLES FALL LOOSE.
"I LIKE RIBBON, BUT PLEASE... DON'T USE THE GLITTER.
"IT GETS IN MY EYES."
A LITTLE... DISJOINTED, DON'T YOU THINK?
IT DOESN'T TRANSLATE AS WELL AS I'D HOPED WHEN READ ALOUD. IT ALWAYS SOUNDS BETTER IN MY HEAD...
...MORGAN FAIRCHILD READS IT.
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU STICK TO THE SCRIPT TONIGHT? I WOULD HATE FOR THERE TO BE A COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN.
YOU'RE THE BOSS, BOSS...
BESIDES, I DON'T THINK KAREN PAGE WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE MY WORK.
ALTHOUGH I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR HER READ A VERSE OR TWO... MAYBE SCREAM A VERSE OR TWO...

THE MAN Stan Lee presents: WITHOUT FEAR
PATIENCE, BOY... YOU'LL GET CLOSER TO KAREN PAGE THAN YOU EVER THOUGHT POSSIBLE...
YOU HAVE THE WORD OF... **Mr. FEAR!**
TURN

WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

JOE KELLY
STORY & SCRIPT
WITH VERY SPECIAL
PLOT ASSIST BY
BEN RAAB

RICHIE ACOSTA
PENCILS

BUD La ROSA
INKS

CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORS

RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/KF
LETTERS

JAYE GARDNER
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF

DD
ONLY A SHORT CAB RIDE AWAY...
CITY HALL.
WHERE JUSTICE NEVER SLEEPS...
...THOUGH SOMETIMES, YOU MIGHT CATCH IT NAPPING.
HEY, CASTIGLIONE. KING OF THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT!
MORNIN', MISS MALPHER. KNOCKING OFF EARLY?
SURRRE. DIDN'T YOU HEAR? CRIME IN THE CITY IS DOWN. ALL THE ADA'S GET TO HAVE A LIFE AGAIN.
THAT'LL BE THE DAY... SUPPLY RUN, THEN?
EXIT
YEAH. THE USUAL?
NATCH! YOU DON'T THINK I KEEP THIS GIRLISH FIGURE EATIN' BEAN SPROUTS, DO YA?
OGDON
NOTE TO SELF... START EXERCISING AGAIN... REAL SOON.
KATHY MALPHER IS A GOOD ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY.
IF SHE WASN'T AS SUBTLE AS FORTY GRAIN SANDPAPER, SHE'D PROBABLY BE ABLE TO DROP THE "ASSISTANT" PORTION OF HER TITLE.
BUT SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT POLITICS. PROMOTIONS. SHE ONLY CARES ABOUT ONE THING...
...BRINGING IN THE BAD GUYS.
NEW
25¢
IMAGINE THAT.
WHAT'S THIS CITY COMING TO?

DEL
OOGA BOOGA.
HEY--!
DEL
FWAT
DEL
DAREDEVIL!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ***PLUCKING*** ME OFF OF THE STREET LIKE THAT?
TRUTH BE TOLD, COUNSELOR, I THINK I WAS ALMOST ***DISLOCATING*** MY ***SHOULDER...***
NOT FOR NOTHING, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUN WITH COSTUMED VIGILANTES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, YOU REALLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER CARROT STICKS...
NY
DON'T TRY TO BE ***CUTE*** WITH ME, MISTER! YOU'RE LUCKY I DIDN'T ***KARATE CHOP*** YOU FOR SCARING THE LIFE OUT OF ME!
KARATE CHOP? ***WOW...***
LOOK, I'M ***SORRY,*** Ms. MALPHER, BUT CONSIDERING HOW WE SEEM TO BE WORKING ***AGAINST*** THE POWERS-THAT-BE-WRITING-YOUR-PAYCHECK --
-- I THOUGHT DISCRETION WOULD BE THE BEST COURSE.
INCIDENTALLY, A PAL OF MINE PUTS AWAY A BAG OF ***KRISPY KREMES*** DAILY... AND TRUST ME, IT'S REALLY NOT VERY BECOMING...
ELI
IT'S ***COMFORT*** FOOD, DEVIL. ***DROP*** IT.
OTHER THAN OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MY ***WEIGHT...*** DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO ***REPORT?***
GIVE ME THAT DONUT.

AT THE MOMENT, Ms. MALPHER... I'M FLYING **BLIND...** AS IT WERE.
THIS IS ALL I KNOW FOR SURE...
...A FEW MONTHS AGO, THERE'S A RIOT DOWN AT RIKERS CAUSED BY YOUR PAL AND MINE, **Mr. FEAR.**
AFTER A LITTLE TAP DANCE WITH THE NEW AND IMPROVED **GLADIATOR,** AND A LITTLE HYPNOSIS ACT I PULL ON THE GENERAL POPULATION --
"-- THE RIOT IS **QUELLED** WITHOUT ANY **BLOODSHED,** ALL NAUGHTY BOYS ACCOUNTED FOR, **EXCEPT** FEAR HIMSELF, WHO MANAGES TO SLIP AWAY."
"RIGHT... OR SO WE **THOUGHT.** A FEW **WEEKS** LATER, I WAS DOING RESEARCH INTO THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON WORK-RELATED STRESS...
"...WHEN A RIKER'S EMPLOYEE APPROACHES ME WITH A TIP THAT REPORTS ON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR LITTLE ADVENTURE MIGHT NOT BE SO ACCURATE.
"SURE ENOUGH, I STICK MY **NOSE** WHERE IT'S FAR FROM WANTED, AND DISCOVER **FORENSIC** EVIDENCE OF **TWO** MURDERS IN RIKERS...
"...EVIDENCE THAT WAS STILL FRESH FOR SOME REASON I HAVEN'T QUITE WRAPPED MY HEAD AROUND YET."
"BUT WHEN YOU TRIED TO TAKE THE INFORMATION TO YOUR **BOSSES** SO YOU COULD START **HAULING** PEOPLE IN..."
JUDGE CHALMERS
"I GOT THE STONEWALL, **BIG** TIME. ACCESS **DENIED,** PERIOD.
"SO I TAKE IT ON MYSELF TO SEEK OUT THE WARDEN FOR SOME **UNOFFICIAL** QUESTIONING --
"-- ONLY TO FIND THAT **GHOST RIDER** OF ALL PEOPLE BEAT US TO HIM!
"SINCE IT WOULD BE **AGAINST** HIS CODE OF **SPOOKINESS** TO ACTUALLY WORK **WITH** SOMEONE FOR A CHANGE --
"-- HE **DEEP FRIES** THE WARDEN'S MIND BEFORE **EITHER** OF US CAN GET THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM."

AFTER WHICH HE APPARENTLY WENT TO RIKERS AND BURNED UP ALL THE REMAINING EVIDENCE WITH THAT **HELLFIRE** OF HIS.
HE DID THAT? WHEN?
AFTER HE KNOCKED YOU UNCONSCIOUS, BEFORE YOU SNUCK AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
SO, WHAT NOW?
PFAF
YOU KEEP **PLUGGING** AWAY AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE WILLING TO TALK...
"THEY'RE NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING IF JUDGE CHALMERS KEEPS PUTTING THE KIBOSH ON MY INVESTIGATION..."
"I KNOW. I'M GOING TO TAKE A WHACK AT KIBOSHING THE KIBOSHER."
GOOD LUCK. HE'S NOT GOING TO **BUDGE.** I'VE ALREADY TRIED.
YEAH, WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE FANCY **UNDERWEAR** LIKE I DO...
WELL, MAYBE YOU DO, BUT...
WATCH IT, BUSTER.
I'LL CONTACT YOU AS SOON AS I CAN, MALPHER.
YOU DO THAT, DEVIL... AND KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS OFF OF MY UNDERWEAR.
I MUST BE GOING CRAZY... AN ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY WORKING **WITH A VIGILANTE...** TO INVESTIGATE **JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.**
SIGH I HEAR THE MAIL ROOM'S LOVELY THIS TIME OF YEAR...
Oh, DARN.

DD
MEANWHILE, AT THE MODEST DIGS OF DD'S BEST PAL... ONE FRANKLIN NELSON...
TIME OUT! REWIND!
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU HAD A SHOT AT SCAMMING NIOMI BRINKE... A TOP TEN SUPERMODEL...
...AND YOU WENT WITH THE CHICK WHO RAN A CHEMICAL PLANT?
TO THINK DAD USED TO SAY I WAS THE DUMB ONE --
CANDACE! IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT ON MTV, THERE'S MORE TO A RELATIONSHIP THAN LOOKS! PERSONALITY... KINDNESS...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THIS LIZ CHICK SLAPPED YOU IN FRONT OF LIKE TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE?
YOU'RE MISSING MY POINT... AND IT WAS MORE OF A LOVE TAP... SHE--MMGLFF
OKAY, OKAY, BRO... LOOK, I'VE MADE MORE THAN MY SHARE OF NEGATIVE CAREER MOVES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LOVE...
...SO I'LL LET IT GO IF YOU PROMISE TO GET OFF MY BACK ABOUT NOT RAPPING ENOUGH WITH MOM AND DAD --
BUFF CANDUFF!
PLEASE, KID... I'M SO OVER THAT ONE.
ULLRIGHT... THEFF--
AHEM THEN TELL ME THIS...
...WHY THE HECK ARE YOU HERE?
I MEAN, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, BUT --
-- BUT WHY NOW... WHEN I'VE BEEN FAST AND LOOSE ON THE WEST COAST?
I THOUGHT YOU'D GET TO THAT EVENTUALLY --
BZZZT
Uh, Mr. NELSON -- THIS IS CARLTON, YOUR DOORMAN... ...A WOMAN IS HERE TO SEE YOU. A VERY... INSISTENT WOMAN --
CONTINUE THAT TONE OF VOICE, CARLTON, AND I'LL SEE TO IT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET A JOB WORKING THE DOOR AT A CHICKEN COOP.
SHE SAYS SHE'S YOUR MOTHER.
MOTHER?
NO, CANDY... ALTHOUGH THAT'S ONE OF TWO WORDS I'D USE TO DESCRIBE HER...

OF ALL THE ARROGANT, MORONIC SERVANTS I HAVE EVER --
HEAVENS, WHAT IS THAT STENCH, FRANKLIN? IS SOMEONE BREEDING CHINCHILLAS?
HELLO, ROSALIND... Uh... WHAT A SURPRISE... COME IN. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING?
A TETANUS BOOSTER AND A GALLON OF TOPICAL DISINFECTANT.
YOU MUST BE THE PRODIGAL VALLEY GIRL...
I'M ROSALIND SHARPE. FRANKLIN'S BIRTHMOTHER. CHARMED.
NICE WRAPS. FUR IS MURDER.
FWOOF
FRANKLIN, YOU NEVER TOLD ME THAT YOUR ADOPTIVE SISTER GOT ALL OF YOUR BACKBONE.
I APPROVE. LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
Uh, WAIT -- I...
BUSINESS?
FRANKLIN HASN'T TOLD YOU? >SIGH< PREDICTABLE...
TOLD ME WHAT... FRANKLIN?
YEAH... WELL, IT SEEMED LIKE YOU MIGHT BE STAYING FOR A WHILE... AND POP TARTS AREN'T CHEAP, YOU KNOW... SO --
DO YOU PRACTICE STAMMERING, OR IS IT A NATURAL GIFT?
THERE'S AN OPENING AT THE LAW FIRM FOR A SECRETARY. IF YOU HAVE THE PEOPLE SKILLS OF A TRAINED MONKEY, OR IF YOU'RE AT LEAST AS COMPETENT AS FRANKLIN, THE JOB IS YOURS.
...
SORRY, CATS. I DON'T WANT TO BE RUDE, BUT THIS MONKEY'S GOT SOME SWINGING TO DO.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO HANG AROUND HERE AND BE A BURDEN ON MY BROTHER.
CANDY, WAIT!
SLAM
CHARMING FAMILY YOU HAVE...
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED TRYING TO UN-ADOPT YOURSELF?

CITY HALL.
ADA MALPHER VERSUS JUDGE CHALMERS' VOICE MAIL, ROUND FIFTEEN...
MAYBE THIS TIME I'LL THREATEN HIM OUTRIGHT WITH BODILY HARM --
CHALMERS HERE.
WHA-- Oh, HA... I EXPECTED THE BEEP. BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL, YOUR HONOR..?
MALPHER.
YES. NICE TO HEAR YOU TOO. I'VE LEFT YOU A FEW MESSAGES --
I KNOW... I'VE ERASED THEM ALL.
CHALMERS' GUTS ARE SET ON SLOW BURN... HIS HEART RATE'S INCREASING WITH EACH WORD...
...THE BEAT OF A GUILTY MAN... OR A MAN UNDER DURESS...
I'M PICKING UP ANOTHER PULSE IN THERE WITH HIM... ONE I DON'T RECOGNIZE...
THERE'S NO ROOM ON MY BENCH FOR GHOST HUNTS AND CONSPIRACIES, Ms. MALPHER. NOW PLEASE...
...STOP BOTHERING ME.
BUT YOUR HON--
CLAKK
TOLD YOU NOT TO ANSWER THAT CALL... I GOT KIND OF A SIXTH SENSE ABOUT THESE THINGS --
SHUT UP. SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
CONSIDER THE LIP ZIPPED, YER WORSHIP, BUT THE BOSS DOESN'T WANT YOU IN CONTACT WITH MALPHER UNTIL --
THE "BOSS" DOESN'T NEED YOU TO SPEAK FOR HIM...
WELL, WELL... A REGULAR LOVE-FEST IN THE JUDGE'S CHAMBERS...
WHOEVER THAT SECOND MAN IS, HE'S CERTAINLY PUSHING THE RIGHT BUTTONS... STRANGE, THOUGH... SOMETHING IS KEEPING ME FROM GETTING A SOLID FIX ON HIS VOICE...
...STREET NOISE, I SUPPOSE... SO MUCH FOR UNCLE RUDY'S "NO HONKING" LAWS...

YOU ARE CORRECT, *YOUR HONOR*... I DO NOT.
I AM QUITE IN COMMAND OF MY OWN VOICE... AND EXTREMELY PERCEPTIVE TO THE *EMOTION* IN YOURS.
PERHAPS YOU'RE BEGINNING TO TIRE OF OUR... BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT... YOU PROMISED NO BLOODSHED... *SECRECY.*
I DID... BUT APPARENTLY, I DID SO PREMATURELY... SUCH IS LIFE, SOMETIMES. WHAT CAN ONE DO?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE IN THE GAME TO GROW A CONSCIENCE.
ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT A FEW POLICEMEN ANYMORE... "CHARLIE" HAS BEEN *DATING* AGAIN.
WH-WHAT?!
BUT YOU SAID... YOU SAID YOU COULD CONTROL --
WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE,* BOY?!
THE QUESTION SHOULD BE... *"WHO"* HAVE I DONE... YOUR HONOR.
NO! NO!
THIS IS *UNACCEPTABLE!*
I WILL *NOT* GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN!
I'M SORRY...
...YOU MUST HAVE ME CONFUSED WITH A SECURITY CAMERA WHO CARES.
NO... LORD IN HEAVEN...
I STILL MAY NOT HAVE A FIX ON THE SECOND MAN IN THE OFFICE... THIS *"CHARLIE"*...
...BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE HOLLOW LAUGH CUTTING JUDGE CHALMERS TO PIECES...
...THE LAUGH OF FEAR.
"CHARLIE" SLIPS AWAY WHEN I TRY TO REPOSITION MYSELF FOR BETTER RADAR RECEPTION.
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW CHALMERS...

...AND PRAY THAT THE HIKE THAT I SENSE IN HIS BLOOD PRESSURE MEANS THAT HE'S READY TO --
WFSK
-- TALK? YEAH... I'M *TALKING* TO YOU OUT THERE... YOU... IN THE DARK...
LOOKING FOR SOME HOT... TALK?
THEN YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE WITH THE RIGHT ANGEL... *PAIGE ANGEL* ON WFSK.
CLEAR. THAT WAS HOT, KAREN... HOLD ON WHILE I CHECK THE PLAYBACK.
OKAY, PAT.
AHEM DELIVERY FOR KAREN PAGE... OR IS IT MISS ANGEL... I'M NEVER SURE WHEN YOU'RE ON DUTY.
KAREN... ALWAYS KAREN, IAN...
POUR MOI? THANK YOU!
WFSK
POUR VOUS... BUT I'M NOT THE GUILTY PARTY. WHO'RE THEY FROM?
Oh, LET'S SEE... *"SOMEONE WHO THINKS... MY ANGEL'S VOICE CAN'T POSSIBLY MATCH MY ANGEL'S HEART."*
SMOOTH.
YES... DEBONAIR, EVEN.
DEAD AIR.
WHAT?
WFSK
WHA-- Oh! WE'RE *BACK!*
WFSK
SORRY, KIDS. SOMETIMES... EVEN AN ANGEL GETS CAUGHT UP POLISHING HER *HALO.*
WHEW IS IT HOT IN HERE?

HE IDLES THE CAR FOR A MINUTE... COLLECTING HIS PAPERS... HIS THOUGHTS...
WOULDN'T WANT THE NEIGHBORS TO SEE HIM UPSET...
THEY'RE GOING TO SEE MORE THAN THAT TONIGHT.
EVENING, YOUR HONOR... I'M WITH THE CITIZENS COALITION TO ABOLISH CORRUPT CITY OFFICIALS... CCACCO...
...AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD SPARE SOME CHANGE... SPARE SOME INFORMATION?
I'M SORRY, DAREDEVIL...
CH CHAKK
...I ONLY GIVE TO THE POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.
EVEN THOUGH I FEIGN SURPRISE, I WAS ON-TO THE S.W.A.T. TEAM BEFORE THE JUDGE'S CAR CAME TO A STOP --
GUN OIL AND SWEATY KEVLAR ARE A DEAD GIVEAWAY.
CH CHAKK
DARN... MAYBE YOU'LL BE WILLING TO READ SOME LITERATURE, THEN?
HOWEVER, I CAN'T HELP BUT BE SOMEWHAT IMPRESSED BY HIS HONOR'S PARANOIA...
NICE NEIGHBORHOOD. VERY SAFE.
YES. I ALWAYS TRY TO LIVE NEAR THE POLICE WHEN I HAVE A CHOICE. I WAS ONCE ON THE JOB MYSELF...
AND COPS -- LIKE FAMILY -- PROTECT THEIR OWN.
NOW, IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MY FRONT STOOP...
JUDGE CHALMERS, WAIT --
IT DOESN'T TAKE A PSYCHIC FRIEND TO GUESS WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

YOUR HONOR -- LOOK OUT!
Ah... *YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE.*
I DON'T LIKE FIGHTING COPS. REALLY BAD P.R....
BUT THE VOLUME ON THESE GUYS IS TURNED UP TO ELEVEN, AND I HAVE A FEELING THAT THERE'S NO DAINTY WAY OUT OF THIS...
DON'T THEY TEACH YOU GUYS THE GENTLE ART OF *CONVERSATION* ANYMORE..?
OR DID YOU SKIP THAT CLASS TO TAKE BETTER BLUDGEONING 101?
LOOK, GUYS, WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE HERE... I LIKE COPS...
...COPS -- WELL, ASIDE FROM THE ROOKIE WHO'S EATING PAVEMENT -- COPS LIKE ME...
SO WHAT DO YOU ALL SAY WE TAKE A CLEANSING BREATH, AND START FROM THE BEGINNING?
HI, MY NAME'S *DAREDEVIL.* I STOP *BAD GUYS...*
NOW YOU TRY...
KRAKK
...WELL, NOT YOU, OFFICER... YOU'RE BLEEDING.

COME ON, GUYS. LAST CHANCE --
TAKE HIM!
I'M ON --
Oh, FORGET IT.
CHWUKK
KTHOKK
⊰SIGH⊱ MAYBE NEXT TIME, THEY'LL STOP AND LISTEN FIRST.
COPS LOOK OUT FOR THEIR OWN, Huh? GOOD. I'M GLAD THAT THEY DO.
IT'S THE TOUGHEST JOB IN THE WORLD. MUCH TOUGHER THAN MINE...
...BUT IF THIS IS HOW YOU *"LOOK OUT FOR A BROTHER,"* THEN THEY'D BETTER FIND HELP SOMEWHERE ELSE, CHALMER.
THIS *'BLUE WALL OF SILENCE'* ***KILLS***, JUDGE... ESPECIALLY WHEN PEOPLE LIKE YOU HIDE BEHIND IT.
I ***HATE*** THAT.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE SOMETHING *GOING ON* WITH FEAR. I KNOW HOW... *PERSUASIVE* HE CAN BE...
BUT I *CAN* TELL HE HASN'T INFECTED YOU WITH THAT GAS OF HIS.
YOU'RE IN CONTROL OF YOUR SENSES. PERHAPS AN UNWILLING PARTICIPANT.
WHATEVER HE'S *LORDING* OVER YOU CAN'T BE ANY WORSE THAN WHAT HE'S GOT PLANNED FOR THE REST OF US, THAT I CAN PROMISE YOU.
COME CLEAN, YOUR HONOR... TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON OR I'LL *HOLD YOU* AS RESPONSIBLE AS I *HOLD HIM.*
SLEEP ON IT.
I'LL BE WAITING... ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL.
HOW NICE IT MUST BE, DAREDEVIL... TO BE A MAN WITHOUT CONFLICT... A MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
...A MAN WITHOUT SHAME...
DD *MINUTES LATER... ELSEWHERE IN THE CURIOUSLY SMALL BURG OF MANHATTAN...*
THIS IS SO LAME... WALKING THE STREETS OF NYC IN A FUNK ISN'T HARDLY AS COOL AS IT LOOKS...
SWIFF
Oh, WOW...
FOGGY WANTS TO KNOW WHY I LEFT CALI... HOW COULD YOU NOT WANT TO LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE DUDES LIKE DD OR SPIDEY CAN SWING BY...
...AND PROTECT YOU FROM BAD THINGS.

BRRR... UNCOOL TIME FOR FLASHBACKS.
IT'S TIME FOR SOME SERIOUS VEGGING WITH MARISSA... NO WORRIES ALLOWED.
EVEN THOUGH THE PUNK HASN'T BEEN ANSWERING HER PHONE FOR DAYS. GUESS THAT'S A SYMPTOM OF HAVING A LIFE...
BUT I REALLY NEED SOME INPUT ON THIS WHOLE JOB THING --
HEY... OPEN?
MARISSA? YO! IT'S CANDY! I SMELL A MOCHACCHINO WITH YOUR NAME TATTOOED ON IT!
MARISSA?
WEIRD.
SIGH GUESS I'M GONNA HAVE TO DUST OFF MY OWN MORAL CENTER TO ANSWER THIS ONE...
GUESS I'LL CATCH YOU LATER, GIRL-FRIEND.
SLAM
3

ZZZNGH
RRRRING
ZZZNGH YEFF? YUNKEEF STEDIUFF... KATFY STEINBRENNER SPUFFING.
RRRING
Uh MUH GUD!
MAFFER!
I'M ON THE *WRONG* SIDE OF THE *WALL*...
WE NEED TO MEET. HOW FAST CAN YOU GET UPTOWN?
CEMBER 97
WED THUR FRI SAT
3 4 5 6
10 11 12 13
17 18 19 20
24 25 26 27
31

WELCOME BACK, NIGHT OWLS... IF YOU JUST JOINED US, WE'RE RAPPING ABOUT **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY**...
...AND THE APPARENT **LACK** OF IT IN OUR HUMBLE NEW YORK COMMUNITY.
WE'VE GOT... CHARLIE ON THE LINE... HEY, **CHARLES,** TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE **THINKING.**
*IF I DID THAT, YOU'D **HANG UP** ON ME...*
...INSTEAD... I'LL STICK TO THE SCRIPT.
DID YOU LIKE THE FLOWERS?
WFSK
FLOWERS?
*AND THE CARD... THE **CARD** ABOUT YOUR HEART... YOUR **BEATING**... **DRIPPING** --*
OKAY! IT SOUNDS LIKE THE BOYS IN THE BOOTH ARE TAKING A LITTLE NAP INSTEAD OF SCREENING CALLS... **SORRY,** CHARLIE...
...THIS ISN'T THAT KIND OF **TALK RADIO.**
WFSK
MYRNA, FROM THE BRONX. WHAT'S ON YOUR --
I WASN'T FINISHED.
...
PAIGE?
GET A LIFE, FRIEND. THERE ARE 900 NUMBERS FOR THIS --
WAIT --
CLICK
SORRY, GANG, WE'RE HAVING SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS -- I'M SWITCHING TO ANOTHER LINE --
DON'T HANG UP ON ME, PAIGE.
CLICK
*I WANT TO SHOW YOU **SOMETHING** --*
CLICK
*-- SHOW YOU WHAT'S **INSIDE ME** --*
CLICK
PAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
BUT FIRST --
CLICK
-- I WANT TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE YOU... SMEARED ACROSS A WALL --
PATRICK!
HE'S ON **EVERY LINE!**
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
I KNOW!

I ALMOST LEFT.
SORRY, YOUR HONOR, YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO CATCH A CAB AT THIS **HOUR** OF THE NIGHT.
THEY DON'T HAVE A CAR SERVICE THAT SPECIALIZES IN CLOAK-AND-DAGGER PICK-UPS.
NO, I SUPPOSE THAT THEY DON'T.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TIRED... Ms. MALPHER... TO THE POINT WHERE ***BREATHING*** IS A ***CHORE?***
LAW SCHOOL DID A NUMBER ON ME... BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.
NO. IT'S NOT.
WHAT --?
A LAST BREATH... Ms. MALPHER...
NY 635 14981
0673918
...A SHIFTING OF THE WEIGHT FROM MY SHOULDERS.
DON'T WALK
KEEP DOING WHAT YOU'RE DOING, COUNSELOR... NO MATTER WHAT THEY THROW AT YOU. HAVE NO FEAR.
I TAKE IT HE WAS GOING FOR *"OBSCURE AND MOURNFUL..."*
...OR WAS THAT *"RESOLVED AND CRYPTIC"*?
YOU GOT ME. HERE. MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE SENSE OF THIS...
IT'S A LITTLE COLD TO PULL THE *"READING INK WITH MY FINGERTIPS"* TRICK, BUT KATHY DOESN'T NOTICE I HAVE TO TAKE OFF MY GLOVE --
-- A ***SERIAL NUMBER?*** NO...

ACROSS TOWN...
THREE MINUTES... THREE MINUTES AND I'M OUT OF HERE. FORGET BONDING --
EXCUSE ME, MISS?
HEY, I'M JUST WAITING FOR A FRIEND. NO STATIC. I LOVE THE POLICE --
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MARISA McTAGGERT'S?
Y-YES... WHAT DID SHE *DO* NOW? FIVE FINGERED DISCOUNT?
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT... IT MAY BE NOTHING AT ALL, BUT...
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP US BY ANSWERING A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?
YES... OF COURSE...
IS SHE... IS SHE *ALRIGHT?*
WELL, MISS..?
CANDACE. CANDACE NELSON.
MISS NELSON... THAT DEPENDS ON *YOU,* I SUPPOSE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN...
I'M SURE YOU WILL...
...CANDY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
APR
#374
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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BARON
KELLY
OLIEVETTI
BRITO
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SO LITTLE TIME TO SAVE THE WORLD

STORY BY JOE KELLY WRITTEN BY JONATHAN BARRON & JOE KELLY PENCILS BY ARIEL OLIVETTI
INKS BY PIER BRITTO LETTERS BY RS & COMICRAFT COLORS BY ED LAZARELLI
EDITS BY JAYE GARDNER
EDITS IN CHIEF BY BOB HARRAS

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR Stan Lee presents:
ROSALIND SHARPE... MOTHER, LAWYER... GUN OWNER -- THE LAST NOT BEING THAT GREAT A SURPRISE WHEN YOU CONSIDER JUST WHAT KIND OF MOTHER AND LAWYER THIS RUTHLESS FURY IN GUCCI IS...
I'M TELLING YOU, KAREN, DEAR, THE FEELING OF POWER WHEN YOU'RE HOLDING ONE IS EXTRA-ORDINARY!
AND DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON THE THRILL OF PULLING THE TRIGGER!
THOUGH I'M QUITE SURE YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO AIM IT AT ANYONE, DEAR.

THE ABODE OF MATT MURDOCK (AKA DAREDEVIL) AND KAREN PAGE...
Um, THAT'S A VERY NICE GESTURE, BUT...
DID MY HYPER-SENSITIVE EARS DECEIVE ME OR DID MY BOSS JUST OFFER TO BUY YOU A GUN?!
SHE'S BEING NICE, MATT! -- AS NICE AS ROSALIND GETS -- AND MAYBE I NEED A GUN WITH THAT PSYCHO OUT THERE TERRORIZING ME!
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SHINING KNIGHT IN RED I CURRENTLY LIVE WITH SEEMS TO BE A LITTLE BUSY THIS SEASON.
OUCH, KAREN, TURN THE KNIFE A LITTLE MORE -- I'M STILL BREATHING...
I'LL JUST ADD THAT TO MATT MURDOCK'S 'TO DO' LIST: BUY MILK, TACKLE MOUNTAIN OF LEGAL PAPERS, TAKE DOWN Mr. FEAR, GO TO FOGGY'S AND DEAL WITH HIS PANIC ATTACK...
...AND PROTECT KAREN FROM STALKER. HEY! NO PROBLEM!
I'M GOING TO PASS ON THE GUN, ROSALIND, BUT THANKS ALL THE SAME. BESIDES, I'VE GOT MATT TO PROTECT ME.
MATTHEW?! POLITICAL CORRECTNESS ASIDE, KAREN...
...BUT MATTHEW IS BLIND. HE CAN'T EVEN COLOR-COORDINATE -- HOW CAN HE PROTECT YOU?
JUST GIVE ME ONE SHOT WITH MY BILLY-CLUB -- RIGHT BETWEEN HER EYES -- I'LL SHOW HER WHAT A BLIND MAN CAN DO!
DEAR? PUN'KIN'? MY LI'L SUGAR-SMACK? ARE YOU STILL ON THE PHONE?
I CAN'T SEE, YOU KNOW...

A QUICK CUT LATER -- OUTSIDE THE COUPLE'S APARTMENT...
INFERNAL WOMAN, I SWEAR...
HEY, YOU TWO! THE RENT WAS DUE MONDAY! I WANNA CHECK!
SORRY, Mrs. BANKS, THINGS HAVE BEEN CRAZY LATELY. YOU'LL GET A CHECK FIRST THING TOMORROW.
DID SOMEONE FORGET TO TELL ME IT WAS THE DAY OF THE HARPIES?
COME ON, MATT, SHE MAY BE ONE MEAN LANDLADY, BUT I HAVE TO GIVE Mrs. BANKS CREDIT...
...SHE MANAGES TO KEEP A BUILDING FULL OF PEOPLE SAFE IN THIS BIG, BAD CITY, ALL WHILE DOING THE SINGLE-MOTHER THING -- I ADMIRE HER STRENGTH.
AND I ADMIRE YOURS... WHICH IS WHY I KNOW YOU CAN HANDLE A HEAVY BREATHER ALL ON YOUR OWN...
Ah! SEE! LOOK AT THAT! WHAT A GRIP! CRUSHING BONES... IN HAND... OUCHIE.
YOU'RE NOT FUNNY.
THE LUXURY APARTMENT OF FRANKLIN "FOGGY" NELSON...
"CANDACE IS IN TROUBLE, MATT! I CAN FEEL IT!"
SPARE CHANGE?
FOGGY, WE BOTH KNOW YOUR SISTER IS A WILD-CHILD. SHE'S PROBABLY JUST --
BUT WE HAD A FIGHT! AND SHE DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT! WHAT IF SHE'S IN SOME DIRTY HOVEL SOMEWHERE, TALKING TO LOUNGE SINGERS AND DRAG QUEENS AND..!
...I CAN'T BREATHE...
FOGGY, CALM DOWN...
HIS HEART IS RACING. BP'S UP. HE'S REALLY TERRIFIED -- BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO...
...SIGH -- NEVER COULD SAY NO TO FOGGY -- ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S FREAKING...

LOUNGE SINGERS AND DRAG QUEENS, Huh? THE *HORROR*...
THANKS, MATT. THANK YOU.
MEANWHILE, IN THE EAST VILLAGE...
Nuh-Uh, THESE GUYS DON'T LOOK FAMILIAR, EITHER.
AND *MARISSA* WOULDN'T HANG WITH 'EM -- EVEN *SHE* HAS STANDARDS.
GOD, WE'RE *NEVER* GOING TO FIND HER, ARE WE?
YES, WE WILL, *CANDACE*. DON'T YOU WORRY.
POLICE
MAYBE THIS'LL HELP... "*HOPE!* A LIGHT IN THE CLOUDY GREENHOUSE OF DESPAIR. BEHIND... A *CACTUS!* I HAVE NO FUR... NO FUR..."
Uh... IT'S A POEM I WROTE. ALWAYS CHEERS ME UP...
YO! WARNING BELLS! THIS... GUY... IS... *WHACK!* HE SURE DOESN'T ACT LIKE ANY FIVE-O I EVER MET -- MAYBE I SHOULD BAIL...
HEY! BORROUGHS, RIGHT? YOU BACK ON THE JOB?
NEVER LEFT! TEMPORARILY TRANSFERRED TO, Uh, *BROOKLYN SOUTH!*
Oh. WELL, *CHARLIE* MAY BE WHACK, BUT I GUESS HE *IS* A REAL COP, SO HE MUST BE OKAY.

MARISSA'S APARTMENT...
OKAY... SO SOMETIMES FOGGY PANICS WITH GOOD REASON...
THE PLACE IS *TRASHED.* SOMETHING BAD WENT DOWN HERE. I PICK UP THE HINT OF CLEANING SOLVENT, BUT UNDER THAT... *BLOOD* -- HAVE TO CONCENTRATE TO FIND IT...
MY GOD... MATT, I WISH YOU COULD SEE THESE PHOTOS.
GOLLY, THAT'S *SOME TATTOO.*
LORD, PLEASE DON'T LET CANDACE HAVE A *MATCHING* ONE...
HERE -- THE *BLOOD* --
FOGGY...
WHAT'S THAT, MATT? CUTE LITTLE GUY. WHAT'S IT MEAN?
IF I HAD TO GUESS... I'D SAY HE'S *TERRIFIED... AFRAID...*
IT'S A MESSAGE TO ME... TO *DAREDEVIL.*
I HAVE NO TROUBLE *"READING"* THE PRINT WITH MY THUMB --
DAREDEVIL?! WHAT DOES MY SISTER HAVE TO DO WITH HIM?
I HATE TO THINK, FOGGY... BUT THIS IS A *BREAD CRUMB TRAIL...*
...AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FOLLOW IT.
Wehler
NYC's

ALPHABET CITY...
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND WAITING OUTSIDE WHILE I CHANGE, BUT MY PLACE IS A *TOTAL WRECK!*
THERE MIGHT EVEN BE A DEAD BODY HIDDEN UNDER ALL THIS JUNK! HA-HA!
IT'S COOL... TAKE YOUR TIME...
*I DO WISH YOU'D RETURN MY PAGES SOONER, **CHARLES.** I HAVE A VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE TO KEEP.*
DID YOU PLANT THE MATCHBOOK AS I INSTRUCTED?
SURE DID, ***Mr. F!*** DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB DRAWING THE STICK FIGURE TOO!
STICK FIGURE? ...Er... NEVER MIND. I HAVE A MEETING IN A FEW MINUTES.
WHOA! I GOT THE NELSON CHICK WITH ME -- WE'RE GOING OUT LOOKING FOR HER FRIEND. SO I WAS WONDERING...
...CAN I HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH HER BEFORE I THROW HER AWAY?
NEVER THOUGHT I'D ACTUALLY ***DREAD*** GOING TO A CLUB, BUT WHAT IF MARISSA ***ISN'T*** THERE AND ***NOBODY'S*** SEEN HER?
I'M GONNA BE EVEN ***MORE*** BUMMED THAN I ALREADY AM. GOD, MARISSA, WHERE ***ARE*** YOU?

MEANWHILE... AT THE TOWNHOUSE OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE CHALMER, WHO HAS JUST CAUGHT AN EARFUL FROM ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY, KATHY MALPHER.
BE THANKFUL YOU MISSED IT BECAUSE IT WAS BRUTAL.
MALPHER, PLEASE... YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE...
YOU HELPED ME OUT WITH THAT BADGE NUMBER, YOUR HONOR, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH! I NEED MORE..!
I'M GOING TO POLITELY ASK YOU TO LEAVE NOW.
FINE. BUT YOU THINK REAL HARD ABOUT WHAT I SAID, JUDGE. I DON'T KNOW HOW DEEP YOU'RE IN, BUT GET IN FRONT OF THIS NOW -- HELP YOURSELF.
I'LL BE CALLING LATER. COUNT ON IT.
SIGH... GET IN FRONT OF IT...
...YOU IGNORANT GIRL. I'M TRYING TO KEEP YOU FROM...
...
...Oh, OF COURSE...
...HELLO.

WEBSTER HALL -- HOTTEST NIGHTCLUB IN NEW YORK CITY -- THIS MONTH.
BOOM BOOM BOOM
I WANNA DIE JUST LIKE JFK! I WANNA DIE ON A SUNNY DAY!
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
HEY, THANKS AGAIN FOR LETTING ME STOP BY MY PLACE TO CHANGE. EVEN IF ANYBODY HERE HAS SEEN YOUR FRIEND THEY AIN'T GONNA TELL ME IF I'M WEARING MY COP UNIFORM.
NO, CHARLIE. THANK YOU FOR GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO HELP ME LOOK FOR MARISSA. I NEVER THOUGHT THERE WERE ANY COPS AS COOL AS YOU...
... EVEN IF YOU ARE KINDA WEIRD... BUT CUTE.
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE -- I'M FULL OF SURPRISES.

MEANWHILE, UPTOWN AT KAREN'S WORKPLACE, WFSK RADIO...
WFSK II
A GUN, Huh? I DUNNO -- MY COUSIN GOT SHOT IN THE GUT AND NOW HE CAN'T EAT SOLID FOOD, SO...
KAREN..?
-- THIS JUST CAME FOR YOU.
Aw, MAN! NOT ANOTHER PRESENT FROM KAREN'S PSYCHO-ADMIRER! SHOULD YOU CALL THE BOMB SQUAD?
NO, PATRICK! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I SHOULD DO! -- GET MY HANDS AROUND THIS SICKO'S THROAT AND -- AND..!
PLEASE TELL ME THAT'S NOT A HUMAN HEART... ULK..!
HAPPY VALENTINE'S
Oh, IAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE! I JUST -- I CAN'T...
PATRICK, ROLL A REPLACEMENT SHOW, PLEASE. I'M TAKING KAREN HOME...

BACK AT WEBSTER HALL...
DANG, MY HAIR IS *KICKIN'!* I *KNOW* THE LADIES ARE GONNA SPREAD *MAD LOVE* ON ME *TONIGHT!*
GONNA GET SOME! GONNA GET SOME!
LOOK, I'LL EXPLAIN IT AS MANY TIMES AS I HAVE TO!
MY SISTER IS MISSING AND MY FRIEND AND I FOUND A WEBSTER HALL MATCHBOOK IN HER FRIEND'S TRASHED APARTMENT...
...THAT HAS A STICKFIGURE ON IT AND SOME BLOOD AND SO WE GOTTA GET INSIDE 'CAUSE CANDACE IS IN *TROUBLE, OKAY?!*
NUH-UH.
YOU KNOW, YOU SOUND JUST LIKE *MIKE TYSON.*
...
Uh, EXCUSE ME...
MATT! YOU THINK MAYBE YOU COULD, YOU KNOW, GET *MEDIEVAL* ON THIS..?
FOGGY... WATCH AND LEARN...
GO RIGHT IN, *GENTLEMEN...* AND PLEASE TELL YOUR SISTER *"MIKE"* SAYS HI...

"WE STEP INSIDE AND IT'S LIKE WALKING INTO AN **EXPLOSION OF SOUND!**
"THE **MUSIC!** -- SO MUCH **BASS** -- THROWING MY SENSES OUT OF **WHACK** --
"AND WORST OF ALL -- IT'S **DISCO NIGHT.**
...I'M HERE TO DO... WHATEVER I CAN... BE IT EARLY MORNIN'...
FOGGY.
SORRY.
♪I'M YOUR BOOGIE MAN...♪ THAT'S WHAT I AM..!
"NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT -- THAT MAN! -- **WEIRD** -- IT'S LIKE THERE'S **THREE** OF HIM --
"-- **WAIT!** HAS HE GOT A **KNIFE?!**"
CANDACE, **BABY,** SHE AIN'T HERE. WE ASKED **EVERYBODY.** LOOK, YOU'RE **TENSE.** WHY DON'T WE BOOGIE?
HELLOOO, DESENSITIZED PUBLIC SERVANT! WE'RE LOOKING FOR MY **FRIEND,** REMEMBER? I'M NOT HERE TO **PARTY** WITH **YOU..!**
BABE...I *INSIST.*
HEY!

LET GO OF ME!
HELP!
MATT! THERE'S CANDACE!
FOGGY! WAIT!
CANDACE!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
HEY! MY TWELVE-DOLLAR DRINK!
QUIT STRUGGLING! OR MARISSA'S A TRUE DEAD HEAD! GOT IT?!
MARISSA..?!
...ALL RIGHT... JUST DON'T HURT ME...
CANDACE!
DUDE! NOT COOL! SHE'S GONE! GET ON WITH YOUR LIFE!

EXIT
PANG
AGH!
WAIT! YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT ME!
AND YOU DON'T GET MY POETRY! WE'RE EVEN!
NOW SHUT UP AND SCREAM!
TOK
bends
ADIOHEA
OW!
MAAAAN!
THAT HURT!
KIDS TODAY. I'LL NEVER GET THESE FUNKY NEW DANCE STEPS.
BOOGIE YOUR TAIL AWAY FROM HER, DIRK DIGGLER... NOW.
DD

HEH.
NICE.
LATER, BABY!
IT WAS FUN!
YOU OKAY?
Uh-Huh.
GO GET 'IM.
BARELY HAD TIME TO ZIP UP THE UNION SUIT -- HAD TO DUMP A NICE JACKET, TOO.
STILL HAVING TROUBLE FOCUSING -- LINGERING EFFECTS FROM THE CLUB -- OR IS IT *HIM..?* GOTTA CONCENTRATE -- *NAIL HIM!*
UHF!
DAREDEVIL!
HEY, I THINK THAT GUY'S ON THE *JOB!*
"ON THE JOB"?!
NEW YORK'S *FINEST,* BABY...

I HEARD **HORNHEAD** BEAT UP SOME **SWAT GUYS,** BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT!
WELL HE'S DEFINITELY BEATIN' ON ONE A' OURS NOW!
FREEZE, DAREDEVIL!
DON'T YOU MOVE A $!@&! MUSCLE!
HE'S A COP! AND KATHY MALPHER SCORED A BADGE NUMBER FROM CHALMER THE OTHER DAY --
-- BUT HOW DOES THAT TIE IN WITH Mr. FEAR AND HIS PLANS FOR FOGGY'S SISTER?!
SCREECH
IS IT JUST ANOTHER PLOY TO GET TO ME THROUGH MY FRIENDS?
FREEZE!
LET 'IM GO, DAREDEVIL!
Uh... LOOK, OFFICERS... WHAT WE NEED TO DO HERE IS TAKE ONE BIG COLLECTIVE **BREATH...** OKAY?
ON YOUR KNEES!
YOU HEARD MY PARTNER! **FREEZE!**

OFFICER DOWN! **OFFICER DOWN!**
HE'S **CRAZY!** TAKE HIM OUT!
NGHH!
COPS DISTRACTED ME -- LUNATIC GOT IN A **LUCKY SHOT** -- BUT WITH MY **BILLY-CLUB,** I CAN STILL...
HA-HA-HA-HA!
DON'T EVEN **THINK** ABOUT IT, **DAREDEVIL!**
OASIS 03/12
YOU DEAF..?!
UGH!
NOT QUITE.
I **SWEAR,** GUYS...
...YOU GOT IT ALL **WRONG!**
MY FOOF! YOU KNOCKED OUT MY **FOOF!**
YOU'RE TAKING THE COSTUME WAY TOO **LITERALLY.** I'M STILL ON THE SIDE OF THE **ANGELS. SWEAR!**

SLOW DOWN, YOU LOUSY COSTUME-WEARIN' VIGILANTE MOTHER...!
Oh, MY MOUF... IH HURH...!
AH-AH...!
...LANGUAGE, OFFICER!
CRUMP
STOP OR I'LL SHOOT!
NOT WITH THIS GUN.
$!@&!!
JEEZ, NOW I KNOW HOW SPIDEY FEELS...
NO TRACE OF THE PSYCHO -- IT'S LIKE HE JUST VANISHED --
WHAT IS FEAR UP TO?

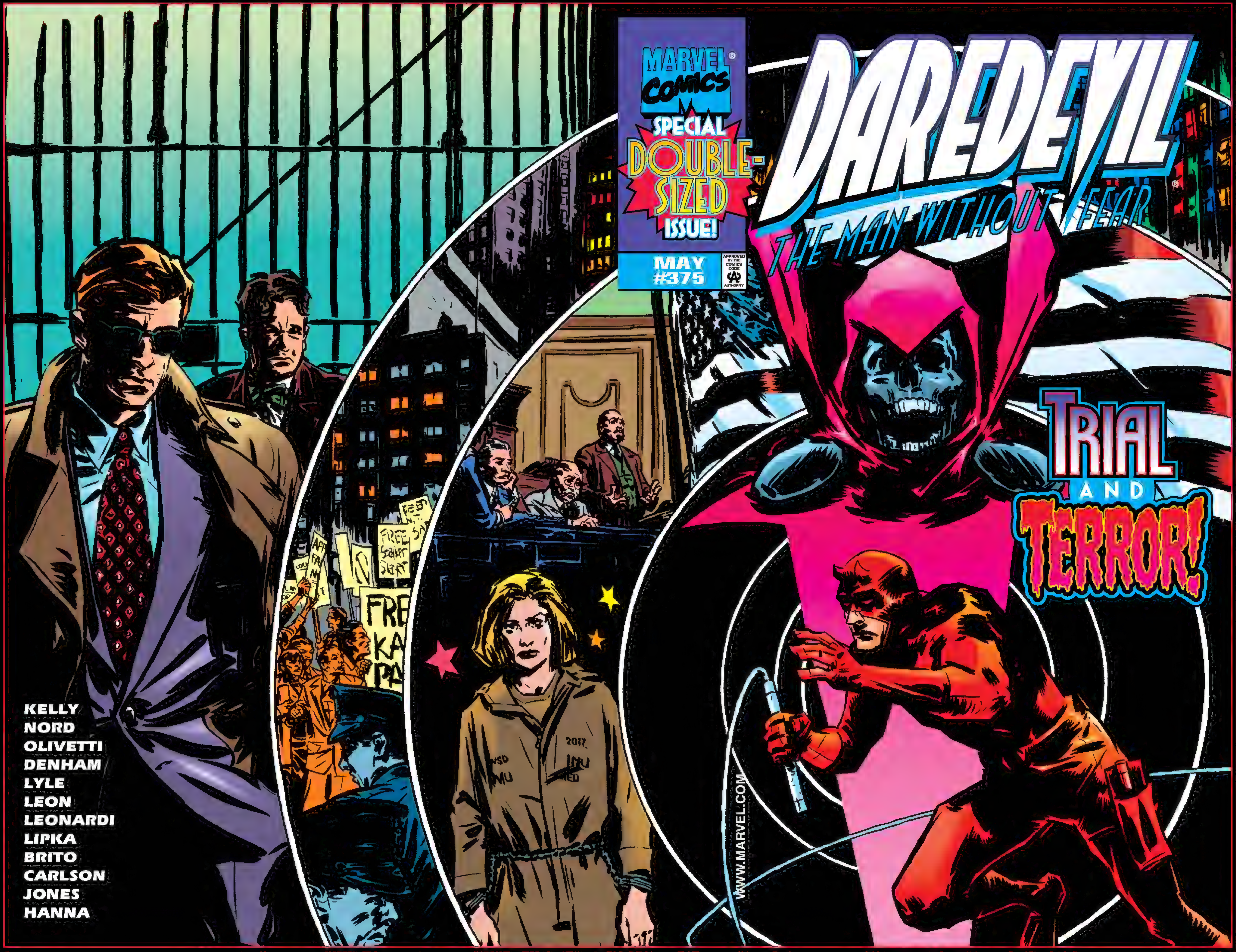
AT JUDGE CHALMER'S ALL IS QUIET...
BEE-DEE-DEEP
KA CLICK
THIS IS CHALMER. LEAVE A MESSAGE.
SCREENING THIS CALL WAS THE WORST MISTAKE YOU EVER MADE, CHALMER. NOW I'M GOING AFTER YOU JUST AS HARD AS I AM FEAR... Uh, IT'S KATHY MALPHER, BY THE WAY...
LORD, BUT HER NEW YORK ACCENT IS DOGMATICALLY LOW-CLASS, ISN'T IT?
KA CLICK
LET'S TURN THIS OFF. SHE HURTS MY EARS.
PHENALOTA-COLINE, YOUR HONOR --
-- YOU MUST HAVE HAD SOME VERY INTERESTING VISIONS AS YOU PASSED.
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FEAR OF LIVING IS OFTEN STRONGER THAN THE FEAR OF DYING?
IT'S TRUE. A GREAT MANY PEOPLE ACTUALLY CHOOSE DEATH OVER FACING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. I FIND THAT FASCINATING.
I'VE NEVER HANDLED BETRAYAL WELL... AND I'M VERY ANGERED BY YOURS...
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I MUST STOP BEHAVING IN A CIVILIZED MANNER. YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH WORSE IT COULD HAVE BEEN FOR YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS, YOUR HONOR... YOUR FAMILY SECRET... DIES WITH YOU.

FINALLY, MY HEAD'S BEGINNING TO CLEAR -- NOT SEEING THREE OF ANYTHING ANYMORE...
AND AT LEAST CANDACE IS SAFE...
SIS! YOU HAD ME WORRIED SICK!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF, LARDBUTT!
BUT I LOVE YOU, TOO.
BUT THAT MANIAC IS STILL OUT THERE...
WAH-HA-HA-HA...
OW -- MY RIBS --
-- WHEE-HEE-HEE...
WEIRDO.
MO
"VAUX & I"
BUT I FEEL LIKE I TOOK ONE STEP FORWARD AND TEN STEPS BACK!
HAVE TO STOP AND FIT THE PIECES TOGETHER -- Mr. FEAR, JUDGE CHALMER, THIS LUNATIC COP -- INSTEAD OF RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD IN RECORD TIME.
MAYBE I CAN STILL PICK UP HIS TRAIL... NO! WHAT I SHOULD DO IS HEAD HOME TO KAREN... WATCH OVER HER.
POOR KAREN -- I'D HEAD-BUTT THE HULK RIGHT NOW IF IT MEANT I COULD SPEND A WEEK JUST HOLDING HER CLOSE...
...
I'LL CHECK OUT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FOR JUST A HALF-HOUR, THEN HEAD HOME...PROMISE.

OUTSIDE MATT AND KAREN'S APARTMENT BUILDING...
AND THE PRIEST SAYS, "HOLD THIS."
HA-HA-HA-HA! THAT'S GREAT, IAN! I HAVEN'T LAUGHED IN WEEKS!
THANKS AGAIN FOR ESCORTING ME HOME, IT BEING OUT OF YOUR WAY AND EVERYTHING.
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D THROW MYSELF IN FRONT OF A CAR FOR THE CHANCE TO ESCORT YOU... I MEAN...Uh...
YAWN
TIRED?
MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO COME UP FOR SOME COFFEE?
...SO AFTER MY THIRD YEAR OF DOING COLLEGE RADIO I DECIDED THAT --
-- THAT SINCE THE METAL PLATE IN MY HEAD PICKED UP RADIO WAVES...
...IT WOULD BE STUPID OF ME NOT TO MAKE IT MY PROFESSION...
MM-HMM. THAT'S NICE.
"WHY ISN'T MATT HOME YET? MAYBE HE AND FOGGY WENT OUT FOR A BEER -- WITH THE BLACK WIDOW! THAT TRAMP!
"LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, KAREN PAGE. SINCE WHEN DOES A CUP OF COFFEE LOOK LIKE A GLASS OF WINE?
BZZZZZ

THE DOOR -- WANT ME TO GET THAT?
BZZZZZ
NO, IT'S PROBABLY MY LANDLADY'S KID.
SHE LIKES TO RUN UP AND DOWN THE HALL, PRESSING EVERYONE'S BUZZER. MAYBE IT'S STUCK.
ZZZ
ALL RIGHT, YOU L'IL PUNK..!
AAAGH!
Oh, GOD!
KAREN..?
MUH-MUH-MUH...
"Mrs. BANKS!"

MUH-
MUH...
THE RENT
IS TAKEN
CARE OF.
"I CAN'T
BREATHE..."
MMATT!
SHE SCREAMS MY NAME AND I HEAR HER FROM SIX BLOCKS AWAY -- IT'S THE SOUND OF MY LIFE TAKING A SERIOUS TURN FOR THE WORST.
KAREN!
TO BE CONCLUDED!


MARVEL® COMICS
SPECIAL DOUBLE-SIZED ISSUE!
MAY #375
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
TRIAL AND TERROR!
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LEONARDI
LIPKA
BRITO
CARLSON
JONES
HANNA

AND LASTLY... TO THE CHARGE OF **MURDER** IN THE FIRST DEGREE OF **POLICE OFFICER CHARLES BOROUGHS,** HOW DO YOU PLEAD?
NOT GUILTY, YOUR HONOR.
NOT GUILTY, YOUR HONOR.
I CAN FEEL THE EARTH **SPIN,** SOMETIMES.
FOR THE MOST PART, I **IGNORE** THE PUSH OF MOMENTUM AND GO ABOUT MY BUSINESS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE... BUT TODAY...
2017
TODAY IT'S **UNAVOIDABLE.** THREE MONTHS OF THE WORLD'S **CHURNING** HAS CAUGHT UP WITH ME. AND I CAN'T BLOCK IT OUT.
I FEEL THE **INERTIA.** THE **SPEED.** THE **SPIN.**
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE **SICK.**

[redacted]

DD
NEW YORK CITY. THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN.
I HAVE UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM THE MAYOR AND THE GOVERNOR TO PROSECUTE THIS CASE TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.
IF AN OFFICER IS GUNNED DOWN IN COLD BLOOD ON MY WATCH -- SOMEONE'S GOING TO PAY!
KAREN PAGE'S CELEBRITY STATUS WILL BUY HER NO LENIENCY IN THIS COURTROOM.
Mr. MURDOCK, DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO DEFEND A WOMAN WITH WHOM YOU'RE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED --?
COME ON. PAUL... LEAVE THE MUD-SLINGING TO THE PIGS, DEAR.
NO COMMENT.
WE ALL KNOW WHAT SORT OF AN "ACTRESS" Ms. PAGE IS... I WON'T EVEN COMMENT ON HER ALLEGED "STALKER" --
AT BEST, SHE IS A MISGUIDED VIGILANTE WHO MADE A FATAL MISTAKE... AT WORST, A PSYCHOTIC KILLER.
EITHER WAY, SHE'LL GET HER DUE!
COME ON, PAL, Huh? I SAID NO COMMENT!
KAREN PAGE IS AN INNOCENT WOMAN. WE WILL CLEAR HER NAME.
MATT! IS KAREN BACK ON THE DRUGS? IS THIS MURDER A LINK BACK TO HER DAYS AS A PROST! --
WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT A CONVICTION IS FORTHCOMING... IT'S A SMOKING GUN CASE.
SAY THAT TO MY FACE, YOU SON OF A --
MATT! MATT!
"I'D LIKE TO START WITH A STEP BACK, FOLKS, AND REVIEW THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM... 'KAY?"

NFSK
"AT THIS **POPULAR** NEW YORK RADIO STATION, ON-AIR PERSONALITY **KAREN PAGE ALLEGEDLY** TOOK A MAN'S LIFE.
"HIGHLY DECORATED OFFICER **CHARLES BOROUGHS** WAS ASSIGNED TO **PROTECT** Ms. PAGE FROM A **'STALKER'**...
"...A CHARACTER DUBBED THE **"TRIPLE THREAT" KILLER.** HE MURDERED **NUMEROUS** INDIVIDUALS IN GRUESOME **TRIBUTE** TO THE **DJ DIVA.**
"THE CITY IS HELD IN A GRIP OF **FEAR,** TUNING IN NIGHTLY TO HER SHOW AS THE **"KILLER"** TAUNTS AND **TEASES** PAGE. MORE **BODIES.**
"AUTHORITIES ARE **STUMPED.** SHE GETS **ROUND** THE CLOCK PROTECTION, BUT Ms. PAGE PURCHASES A **GUN** TO PROTECT HERSELF...
5
"AND APPARENTLY **USES** IT ON OFFICER BOROUGHS WITH **FATAL** RESULTS, CLAIMING THAT **HE** WAS THE *'TRIPLE THREAT.'*
"NO EVIDENCE EXISTS TO SUPPORT HER CLAIMS... AND SUSPICIONS ARISE THAT PAGE MAY HAVE STAGED HER OWN **"STALKING."**
JOINING ME FOR COVERAGE OF THIS CASE IS **PROFESSOR LAWRENCE CRANSTON** FROM **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY** LAW. PROFESSOR, YOUR IMPRESSIONS?
THANK YOU, **Ms. STAR** FIRST, MY **CONDOLENCES** TO Ms. PAGE'S **LEGAL** TEAM.
NOT ONLY MUST THEY PROVE **REASONABLE DOUBT** AGAINST A **MOUNTAIN** OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE... BUT THE **EMOTIONAL** NATURE OF THIS CASE IS **CLEARLY** TAKING ITS TOLL.
AS TODAY, WHEN MATT MURDOCK, **CONSUMMATE** PROFESSIONAL, ALMOST CAME TO **BLOWS** WITH A REPORTER ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL!
WHILE THIS MAY MAKE FOR GOOD **DRAMA**... IT DOES **NOT** MAKE FOR GOOD **LAW.**
WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S SO **EDGY,** PROFESSOR?
FEAR, OF COURSE. MATT MURDOCK IS **AFRAID.**

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee
I HAVE **NO** IDEA WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
NO LEGAL **BRIEF**... NO OVERTURNED **RULING** WILL TELL ME HOW TO KEEP THE **WORLD** FROM SPINNING.
MATT?
I'M GOING TO **SCREAM** --
MATT, I'M READY FOR ANOTHER ONE... *MATT!*

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
JOE KELLY WRITER
CHRIS CLAREMONT STORY ASSIST
CARY NORD & MARK LIPKA
ARIEL OLIVETTI & PIER BRITO
JOHN PAUL LEON
TOM LYLE & ROBERT JONES
BRIAN DENHAM & CHRIS CARLSON
RICK LEONARDI & SCOTT HANNA
ARTISTS
CHRISTIE SCHEELE & IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER EDITOR
BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

SELF-
FENCE
MISSION CONTROL TO APOLLO... STAY WITH ME, BUDDY.
SORRY, FOGGY... I'M JUST -- I'M OKAY.
COOL... LET'S PLAY THE SELF-DEFENSE ROUTE. JUST IN CASE.
WE'VE GOT A LOT WORKING HERE IF WE TAKE THIS TACK. FIRST, THERE'RE THREE HUNDRED YARDS OF AUDIO TAPE OF A MAN WE CAN PEG AS CHARLIE THREATENING KAREN.
SECOND, BOROUGHS'S SPOTTED POLICE RECORD HAS HIM FADING OUT OF SIGHT FOR MONTHS AT A TIME WITH NO EXPLANATION, MAKING HIM A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.
THIRD, CANDACE AND MYSELF, IF NECESSARY, CAN TESTIFY THAT HE TRIED TO KILL HER TOO --
-- AND TO CAP IT OFF, THE "TRIPLE THREAT" MURDERS STOPPED AS SOON AS KAREN PLUGGED THE GUY --
KAREN DIDN'T PLUG ANYONE!! SHE --
EASY, PARTNER... EASY... I'M JUST TALKING IN THE CONTEXT OF A SELF-DEFENSE CASE...
IT SORT OF PRESUPPOSES THAT SHE DID SOMETHING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE, FOG... I'M SORRY... I JUST WISH THERE WERE ANOTHER WAY.
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF THAT Mr. FEAR IS BEHIND ALL THIS, WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE...
UNLESS OL' HORNHEAD HAS TURNED SOMETHING UP AND YOU'RE HOLDING OUT ON ME --
SSSH.
ROSALIND'S COMING BACK.
SURPRISE, BOYS! NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT ROSALIND SHARPE FORGETS HER TEMP-ING DAYS.
TWO COFFEES, ONE BLACK AS A BLIND MAN'S NIGHT, ONE SWEET AS A SICK PUPPY.
YOU OWE ME EIGHTY CENTS.

I NEED SOME **AIR.**
FOGGY... GO OVER THE **FORENSICS** AGAIN, SEE IF WE CAN PROVE **TAMPERING.**
MATTHEW --
I'LL BE BACK... WHEN IT'S LESS **CROWDED.**
SO... I SUPPOSE THAT'S HIS **SUBTLE** WAY OF TELLING ME WHERE TO STICK THE **OLIVE BRANCH.**
CAN YOU **BLAME** THE GUY, ROSALIND? YOU **DID** HELP KAREN BUY THE **GUN** --
WELL I DIDN'T PULL THE **TRIGGER,** FOR PITY'S SAKE!
YAAH!
I'M **TOAST.** A HUNDRED AND TEN VOLUMES OF LEGAL **CLAP-TRAP** AND MY HEAD IS **MUSH.**
TIME TO TAKE A **BREAK,** AND LET SOMEONE **ELSE** DO THE WORK FOR A WHILE...
...SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T GET KNOCKED OFF **BALANCE...** NO MATTER HOW **WILD** THE RIDE.
RIKER'S ISLAND.
WHERE THE WORLD ONLY SPINS... WHEN IT'S TOLD TO.
TWO MINUTES TO LIGHTS OUT!

WOMEN'S DETENTION CENTER.
FRESH MEAT!
YOU NEED A FRIEND? I CAN BE YOUR FRIEND...
QUE PASA, CHICA?
COME TALK TO ME, RADIO LADY... NICE AND SOFT!
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE.
I HATE IT WHEN WE GET CELEBS. THE NATIVES GET ALL FROGGY.
Ah, LET EM. HERE YOU GO, PAGE! ENJOY YOUR STAY...
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE.
AND TAKE CARE OF THAT VOICE OF YOURS, ANGEL...
"I DO NOT WANT TO BE HERE... BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER HOW GOOD I AM AT DOING TIME."
WE MIGHT WANT TO HEAR YOU SING LATER.
STUFF IT, COW.
LIGHTS OUT!
PAGE MUST CERTAINLY BE WORRYING ABOUT HOW HER... ≶AHEM≶ CHECKERED PAST WILL COLOR THIS JURY --
HOLD ON, PROFESSOR... THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO... WHAT BEARING WILL THAT HAVE ON THIS CASE --
THEY SAY THAT TELEVISION PUTS ON TEN POUNDS...
BUT FORTUNATELY, SITTING NEXT TO THAT WINDBAG COULD MAKE ANYONE LOOK TWENTY POUNDS LIGHTER.
WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER, I'M GOING TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER A CAREER IN TELEVISION...
GOOD HOURS, NICE PAY, GLAMOUR...

... AND IT SURE BEATS GRADING PAPERS FOR FAST FUNDS.
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY... THE TOMBS, AN ALL BUT FORGOTTEN SUB-BASEMENT OF THE LAW LIBRARY --
BUILT WHEN THE WORLD WAS A SIMPLER... SLOWER PLACE.
⊰SIGH⊱ I SWEAR, CHARLES... HAD I ONLY KNOWN WHAT UTTER PLEASURE I WAS IN FOR WITH THIS WHOLE TRIAL FARCE...
I WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU MONTHS AGO.
THE PLAN SEEMED SOUND ENOUGH AT THE OUTSET... DRIVE MURDOCK MAD BY MENTALLY CRUSHING HIS LADY LOVE...
BUT YOUR... IMPROVISATIONS ON THE BASIC PLAN RUINED THAT. "TRIPLE THREAT". WHAT DRIVEL.
WE COULD HAVE AVOIDED SO MUCH UNPLEASANTNESS... SO MANY UNFULFILLING DEATHS IF YOU HAD JUST STUCK TO THE SCRIPT.
NNNGH...
BLESS HIS SOUL...
YOU WERE AN ARTIST, CHARLIE... BUT YOU HAD NO&@*# DISCIPLINE.
AND WHAT YOU DID TO THIS POOR GIRL... I SHUDDER TO THINK. SHE WAS AN ENTREE TO NELSON'S SISTER, BUT STILL...
Oh, WELL. LIVE AND LEARN.
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE PRESUMED TO CONTAIN AN ANIMAL LIKE YOU... YOUR FATHER WAS RIGHT...
"I'M GLAD I PUT YOU DOWN LIKE THE FILTHY MONGREL YOU ARE..
BOROUGHS
"...I MEAN, WERE..."

SICK YET?
HUURP?
DON'T WORRY, STINKY... YOU STILL HAVE A FEW MORE REVOLUTIONS BEFORE GETTING REACQUAINTED WITH BREAKFAST.
G-GIVE IT UP, DAREDEVIL! I-I KNOW YOU GOT NUTHIN' --
I'M SORRY? I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE PANIC-INDUCED STUTTERING...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY AGAIN? I'M GETTING A CRAMP.
I AIN'T SEEN FEAR IN MONTHS! HE CUT ME LOOSE, EVERYONE KNOWS DAT!
SO IF YOU'RE BUSTIN' MY CHOPS, YOU MUST BE GETTIN' DESPERATE! BESIDES, I KNOW YOU AIN'T GONNA DROP ME!
OF COURSE NOT! I'D NEVER DO THAT, STINKY! WE'RE PALS! COMPADRES! THIS IS JUST A COUPLE GUYS HAVING SOME YUKKS AT CONEY ISLAND OFF SEASON...
OF COURSE, ON THE OTHER HAND... FEAR'S GOT ME IN A BAD MOOD, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE IT OUT ON.
I NOMINATE LOWLIFE NUMBER THREE WITH THE BAD B.O. AND THE WEIGHT PROBLEM.
BAH! A QUARTER FELL OUT OF MY POCKET -- GO CALL SOMEONE WHO GIVES A CRAP AND LET ME GO!
"*SIGH* YOU KNOW IT'S A BAD DAY WHEN EVEN SEWER RATS CALL YOUR BLUFF --"
THUNK
WHAAH THP!

YOU'RE WASTING TIME. DROP HIM AND LET'S MOVE ON.
HER HEARTBEAT CAUGHT MY HYPER-SENSITIVE EAR A SPLIT SECOND BEFORE THE SAI FOUND ITS MARK...
ELEKTRA.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE --
...TINY PERFECT EXPLOSIONS. DETONATING IN SYNCH WITH THE PULSE OF THE WORLD...
I SAW THE NEWS. KAREN.
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED... SOME COMPAN --
-- NEED SOME HELP.
HEY! WHO IS THAT?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I DO... SHE WAS FRAMED... I'M HAVING A DEVIL OF A TIME PROVING IT, BUT YOU...
...LAST I HEARD... YOUR NOSE WASN'T SO CLEAN ANY-MORE.
IT NEVER WAS.
I CAN'T WORK WITH A KILLER, ELEKTRA... IS IT TRUE?
MATT... THIS WASN'T EASY, COMING HERE... DO YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT?

I COULD REALLY **USE** YOU BY MY SIDE, ELEKTRA...
...BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE **GUTTING** ANYONE IN THE NAME OF JUSTICE...
...
TOUGH, ISN'T IT?
TO PLAY THE **RIGHTEOUS HERO** WHEN THOSE YOU OPPOSE --
-- STRIKE SO CLOSE TO THE SEAT OF YOUR **GOODNESS?**
SCHRIP
OW!
WAAH!
A LITTLE **ADVICE** FROM A FRIEND...
... BEGGARS CAN'T BE **CHOOSERS,** DEVIL. FOR **KAREN'S** SAKE...
...DON'T LET **PRIDE** KEEP YOU FROM ACCEPTING **HELP.**
NO MATTER **WHAT** FORM IT'S IN.
ELEKTRA'S **SCENT** LINGERS LONG AFTER SHE'S DISAPPEARED INTO THE SHADOWS...
...HER **WORDS** KEEP ME AWAKE ALL NIGHT.
UPPER-WESTSIDE... UPPERWESTSIDE... THAT'S ALL I KNOW... Oh GOD...
REALLY DID IT, REALLY **DROPPED** ME...
EYES **STRAIGHT.** DON'T **STARE,** BUT DON'T SHY AWAY FROM EYE CONTACT WITH THE JURY.
ANY QUESTIONS?
JUST **ONE...**

AM I INSANE FOR BELIEVING IN YOU AS MUCH AS I DO?
REE Stalker Slayer
Someone I Love was murdered
FREE
"OPENING STATEMENTS BEGIN TODAY IN THE TRIAL THAT THREATENS TO *TEAR* THE CITY APART...
"...AND IF THE FIREWORKS ON THE COURTHOUSE *STEPS* ARE ANY INDICATOR OF WHAT'S HAPPENING *INSIDE*...
"...EXPECT AN *EXPLOSIVE* DAY OF LITIGATION."
...A WOMAN... WHO *IRRESPONSIBLY* PURCHASED A GUN... WITH THE INTENT TO *USE* IT...
...ON OFFICER *BOROUGHS*... THE *UNFORTUNATE* VICTIM OF HER PARANOIA. A WOMAN...
...WITH A *QUESTIONABLE* PAST INVOLVING *DRUGS, PETTY LARCENY*... AND *WORSE.*
THE STATE WILL *SHOW,* WITH IRONCLAD FORENSIC *CERTAINTY*...
...THAT KAREN PAGE COMMITTED *MURDER* IN THE FIRST DEGREE.
THANK YOU.

KAREN PAGE, AS YOU'LL NO DOUBT HEAR DURING THIS TRIAL, HAS BEEN **MANY** THINGS IN HER LIFE...
...SOME, I'M CERTAIN, SHE WISHES **WOULDN'T** COME UP IN THIS PROCEEDING...
... UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE **PROSECUTION**, COLD-BLOODED KILLER IS **NOT** ON HER **RESUMÉ**.
DRAMATIC PAUSE. **PARTLY** FOR EFFECT --
-- MORE SO THAT MY **YAP** DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH THE WORK OF MY **HYPER-SENSES...** PICKING UP **PULSE RATES...** THE SMELL OF **PERSPIRATION...**
...THE NUMBER OF TIMES A JUROR **SWALLOWS** ARE ALL INDICATORS OF HOW I'M DOING. AT THE **MOMENT**, THEY'RE PAYING ATTENTION --
-- AND THEY **WANT** TO **LIKE** ME... THAT'S A **GOOD** THING.
END DRAMATIC PAUSE. MAKE UNEXPECTED STATEMENT.
IF IT WAS... IF SHE **HAD** GUNNED DOWN AN HONORABLE, **VIGILANT** OFFICER OF THE LAW --
-- I WOULD GIVE Ms. PAGE A LETHAL INJECTION **MYSELF!**
HOWEVER, IT IS **NOT**.
WE WILL PROVE TO YOU THAT CHARLES BOROUGH WAS AN **ANIMAL...**
CREEEAK
...A STALKER OF **WOMEN** --
PAUSE. **NOT** FOR DRAMA, THOUGH...
...SOMETHING'S HAPPENING ON THE **ROOF**. COULD BE AN **OVERANXIOUS** REPORTER... CAN'T TELL --
CREEEAK
HE TURNED MY CLIENT'S WORLD INTO A WALKING NIGHTMARE. BUTCHERED ALMOST **TEN PEOPLE** IN HER NAME...
...INDEED, IF HE HADN'T BEEN KILLED... GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT OTHER **MAYHEM** HE MIGHT HAVE CAUSED --

I HEAR THE GLASS START TO *FRACTURE*, AND HALF A *GASP* LATER --
-- THE WORLD VEERS *SHARPLY* OFF COURSE.
DEAR GOD!
-- *AMBULANCE* --
-- UNIT ON THE *ROOF!*
I ♥ U KAREN
AND GOD HELP ME, THE *FIRST* THOUGHT TO ENTER MY MIND WAS...
...THERE GOES MY *CASE*.
THE TRIAL OF KAREN PAGE TOOK AN INTERESTING *TWIST* TODAY --
-- WHEN A *SURPRISE WITNESS* BROKE PROTOCOL AND APPEARED DURING *OPENING REMARKS*.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A *JOKE?*
JUST TRYING TO ADD A LITTLE *LEVITY* TO THIS TRAGIC, *TRAGIC* DEVELOPMENT, *JOANIE*.

MARISSA DWYER. CANDACE NELSON'S PARTNER IN GRUNGE. CHARLIE'S FIRST VICTIM.
WE'D HAD HER DEAD AND BURIED MONTHS AGO. JUDGING BY THE MEDICAL REPORT...
...SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF.
I HALFHEARTEDLY SCAN HER FOR RESIDUAL CLUES... SCENTS... BUT EVERY LAYER I PEEL BACK...
...PAINTS TOO VIVID A PICTURE OF WHAT SHE'S BEEN THROUGH.
SALT FROM SWEAT, NOT ALL HERS. NYLON FIBERS JUTTING OUT OF ONCE SOFT SKIN... ROPE. MILDEW -- I CAN'T GO ON.
IT'S ALL I CAN DO NOT TO PASS OUT... FEAR, YOU INHUMAN MONSTER -- I JUST CAN'T DO IT. I --
-- SOMEONE'S COMING.
WELL NOW... AREN'T WE A MESS?
THAT VOICE... NO... I'M JUST TIRED --
FEELING PRETTY DOWN, I'D IMAGINE... AFRAID? SICK?
WELL, DON'T WORRY, DARLING... YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL LOOKING OUT FOR YOU. I KNOW... I CAN FEEL HIM.
FUNNY THING ABOUT GUARDIAN ANGELS...
THEY ONLY KNOW TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU ASK OUT LOUD.
PLEASE, MATTHEW... HAVE FAITH. YOU CAN SAVE HER.
"I BELIEVE IN YOU."

I *STILL* DON'T WANT TO DO THIS... BUT WITH HER *VOICE*... THOSE *WORDS*... THE ACID IN MY STOMACH *RETREATS* JUST ENOUGH...
...NYLON FIBERS, ROPE... *MILDEW*... MILDEW...
MAGGIE?
MOM?
...
RIKERS.
HEY... PAGE... YOU REALLY *OFF* THAT *PIG?*
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK?
I THINK THAT IF YOU *DID*...
...YOU BETTER *COVER* YOUR --
BEAT IT, *PERP.*
OFFICER *SMILEY*, LOVELY TO SEE YOU. *FINGER SANDWICH?*
FRESH *BODY* SORT OF BLOWS THE WHOLE *"OFFICER AS STALKER"* THEORY, *DON'T* IT, PAGE?
I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO YOU *BAD, COP KILLER*... DON'T *SLEEP*.
SRASSH
...THIRD DAY OF TESTIMONY, AND TO BE QUITE FRANK, I'M NOT SURE WHERE MURDOCK AND COMPANY CAN GO.
THE "TRIPLE THREAT" STALKER HAS **RESURFACED**, *AND THE PROSECUTION LAUNCHED A* **PRECISION** *ATTACK AGAINST PAGE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THEIR* **WITNESSES..**
IS THAT AN **ELECTRIC CHAIR** *I HEAR WARMING UP?*

WE FOUND ENOUGH FORENSIC EVIDENCE TO CONVICT IN THIS, OR ANY STATE. SHE DID IT.
OBJECTION.
MS. PAGE WAS FOUND UNCONSCIOUS, HERE. OFFICER BOROUGHS, HERE... A LITERAL SMOKING GUN MYSTERY... NOT MUCH OF A MYSTERY.
B12
KAREN PAGE'S APT.
OBJECTION.
CHARLIE... I... HE SAVED MY-- I-- I CAN'T GO ON... GIVE ME A SECOND, WILL YOU?
EXCUSE ME, Ms. SHARPE?
I SAID, YES, Mr. TOWER, I DID... EXPEDITE THE GUN LICENSING PROCESS FOR Ms. PAGE. PULLED A STRING OR TWO SO SHE COULD GET A GUN...
NO, YOU'RE TWISTING MY WORDS! I SAID I WAS WITH HER THE NIGHT OF THE FIRST MURDER-- I NEVER SAID WE HAD A RELATIONSHIP--
PERMISSION TO TREAT Mr. HUNTER AS A HOSTILE WITNESS, YOUR HONOR.
PATRICK... SOUND ENGINEERING IS YOUR STOCK-IN-TRADE... IS THE MAN ON THAT TAPE THE SAME MAN WHOSE VOICE YOU HEARD TWO DAYS AGO CALLING FOR Ms. PAGE?
YEAH... I GUESS IT DOES SOUND LIKE HIM...
HE CAME AT ME... RAISED A KNIFE-- AND I BLACKED OUT.
CONVENIENT. NOW, Ms. PAGE... IS IT NOT TRUE... THAT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN YOU WERE ADDICTED TO HEROIN?
OBJECTION!
OVERRULED.
YES...
AND AT THAT TIME, WERE YOU NOT ALSO INVOLVED IN THE BUSINESS OF PORNOGRAPHY?
OBJECTION!!!
Ms. PAGE... WHEN YOU WERE PROSTITUTING YOURSELF... ON HEROIN... DID YOU EVER BLACK OUT?

Ms.PAGE?
Ms. PAGE?
I'M GOING TO *KILL* HIM.
NO... I'M GOING TO *WIN* THIS CASE--
BEAT HIM TO A QUIVERING *PULP*.
NO... I'LL *WIN* THIS CASE... I--
I JUST *NOTICED*. THE WORLD ISN'T *SPINNING* ANYMORE...
IT'S *FALLING*.
THAT WOMAN'S PAST HAS *NO BEARING* ON THIS CASE?!
WHAT'S THE JUDGE GOING TO *DO?* MAKE D.A. TOWER TAKE IT *BACK?* NO... WHAT'S DONE IS *DONE*.
MURDOCK HAS GOT *SMOKING GUN*, AN *EX-HEROIN ADDICT PROSTITUTE* AND A DEAD *COP*... HE'S UP THE *CREEK*.
THOUGH PERHAPS IF HE HAD BEEN *SMART* ENOUGH TO LET SOMEONE *ELSE* DEFEND HIS GIRLFRIEND, SHE MIGHT HAVE STOOD A *CHANCE*.

FALLING... AND HE'S LAUGHING AS I GO DOWN.
LAUGHING AT HIS PAWN.
NEED FOCUS...
BLOCK HIM OUT --
WAIT. THAT'S NOT MY MIND.
HOW HANG THE SCALES OF JUSTICE, COUNSELOR? THE BLIND LADY TREATS HER CONSORT WELL, I PRAY.
KILL HIM.
NO. MAKE HIM TALK.
WHY? WHY KAREN? WHY US?
COME NOW, MURDOCK... WHAT GOOD IS A NOM DE GUERRE IF I DON'T BACK IT UP FROM TIME TO TIME...
I WANT YOU TO LOSE YOUR FAITH IN EVERYTHING. YOUR WOMAN. YOURSELF.
THE SYSTEM OF JUSTICE YOU SO CARELESSLY FLAUNT WHEN IT SUITS YOU...
BECAUSE ONCE YOU STRIP A MAN OF HIS FAITH... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FEAR.
THAT... AND AN EX-JUNKIE WHORE GIRLFRIEND IN JAIL.
YEARGH!
Oh, I'M SORRY...
...DID THAT LAST PART SLIP OUT?

KISHHHHHH
FEEARRR!
CANDACE IS ALL PREPPED, PARTNER. I COACHED HER LAST NIGHT. SHE'S READY.
FIRST WE HAVE A.D.A. MALPHER SET UP WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT CHARLIE, THEN MY SISTER TELLS THEM HOW THE SICKO TRIED TO KILL HER.
GOOD. LET'S GET SOME REASONABLE DOUBT IN THIS JOINT.
MATT?
MATT? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
CUT MYSELF SHAVING, OF COURSE...
THAT'S WHAT THE INVINCIBLE, COCKSURE HERO IS SUPPOSED TO SAY, ISN'T IT?

-- CONTINUE, **Ms. MALPHER.**
THEN, WE TRIED TO TALK TO THE **WARDEN,** BUT **GHOST RIDER** SHOWED UP, AND **ATTACKED --**
OBJECTION! IS THE A.D.A. TALKING ABOUT HER **LIFE,** OR A MOVIE OF THE **WEEK?**
JUDGE CHALMER HANDED ME A **SERIAL NUMBER,** AND TOLD ME IT WOULD LEAD ME TO THE **KILLER...**IT WAS **BOROUGH'S** NUMBER.
OBJECTION! HEARSAY. PITY **DEAD MEN** CAN'T TELL TALES, Eh, **COUNSELOR?**
YOU **POMPOUS** SON OF A -- WHEN THIS IS OVER, I **QUIT!**
Uh, THAT WILL BE **ALL,** YOUR HONOR.
OKAY, WE STILL HAVE **CANDACE** AS A **TRUMP CARD...**DON'T **WORRY.**
NEVER, FOGGY...
YES. THAT'S **HIM.** HE SAID HE WAS **FIVE-O,** THEN TRIED TO, LIKE, **KILL ME DEAD.** I MEAN **DEAD!** THEN **DAREDEVIL --**
THANKS, **CANDACE. NO** FURTHER QUESTIONS. YOUR **WITNESS,** TOWER.
THAT WAS **QUITE** SOME STORY, **Ms. NELSON...**
THANK YOU. IT'S THE MOST **EXCITING** THING THAT'S EVER **HAPPENED** TO ME.
Oh, REALLY...
...EVEN MORE EXCITING THAN THIS?
A FILE? GEE, YOU MUST BE A PANIC AT PARTIES...
MORE THAN **THAT!** IT'S A VERY EXCITING **STORY...**ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL IN **CALIFORNIA...**
...WHO SMUGGLED **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS** INTO THIS COUNTRY IN HER **DODGE DART.**
Oh GOD...I AM SO **BUSTED... SORRY,** FOGGY...
OBJECTION! **OBJECTION!**
SHE DID **WHAT?!**
NEVER SAY **NEVER...**

WE'RE IN TROUBLE... AREN'T WE?
NO... NOT...
I CUT MYSELF SHAVING... SEE, STILL CONFIDENT...
⋟SIGH⋞ FEAR ISN'T PLAYING BY THE RULES... HE'S GOT THE CITY CONVINCED CHARLES WAS AN "INNOCENT COP"...
...MEANWHILE, HE CONTINUES "STALKING YOU" TO KEEP UP APPEARANCES.
I CAN'T-- I'M HAVING TROUBLE CATCHING HIM AND DEFENDING YOU AT THE SAME TIME--
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO JAIL LIKE THIS, MATT.
YOU STARTED SMOKING AGAIN?
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH DOING TIME...WHEN I DESERVED IT... BUT THIS TIME...
LOOK, WE'RE GOING TO WIN THE CASE, AND YOU'LL STAY FREE.
MATT...IF... IF WE LOSE... IF I GO TO JAIL, FOR SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T DO...
...WOULD I HAVE TO STAY THERE? COULDN'T OUR FRIEND IN THE RED LONG JOHNS DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
WOULD DAREDEVIL LEAVE ME IN PRISON IF IT WASN'T JUSTICE...IF IT WASN'T RIGHT?
...

RIKERS.
IS THIS ROCK BOTTOM?
WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
BECAUSE I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M FALLING ANYMORE...
...MORE LIKE, MAYBE I ALREADY CRASHED...
...AND MY SPIRIT'S JUST WAITING FOR MY BODY TO CATCH UP.
YOU CAN COME OUT NOW, WIDOW. NO ONE'S BREAKING ANYONE OUT OF PRISON TONIGHT...
TOO BAD, DARLING...IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN FUN TO CHASE YOU AROUND FOR A WHILE AND CHAIN YOU UP LIKE A BAD BOY.
...BUT TRY AGAIN WHEN THE VERDICT'S IN, NATASHA. MAYBE YOU'LL GET A WORKOUT THEN.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD TRY IT, REALLY...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE A SWING AT A REPORTER EITHER.
SHE DOESN'T THINK I CAN WIN THIS CASE, NATASHA.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I...I DON'T KNOW...I THOUGHT I COULD. BUT FEAR'S TURNING THE SYSTEM AGAINST ME... I CAN'T BUY JUDGES AND FORGE REPORTS AND HAVE PEOPLE PERJURE THEMSELVES TO GET KAREN OFF...
...BUT HE CAN DO ANYTHING.

MAYBE, BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING BETTER. FEAR IS WORKING FROM A POSITION OF HATE... AND YES, HATE DOES BURN BRIGHT --
-- BUT YOUR LOVE... FOR KAREN ...IT GLOWS BRIGHTER.
SOUNDS FUNNY, COMING FROM YOU.
MAYBE, BUT WHO WOULD KNOW BETTER?
MATT, KAREN MAY HAVE HER DOUBTS, BUT IN HER HEART, SHE KNOWS THAT YOU WOULD DIVE STRAIGHT INTO HELL FOR HER...
...AND SHE WOULD GLADLY FOLLOW.
SHE KNOWS YOU WON'T LET HER DOWN.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
BECAUSE... YOU NEVER LET ME DOWN. EVER.
THANKS, TASHA...
THANK YOU.
ELSEWHERE...

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU DID **LAUNDRY?**
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT **REAL** SLEEP?
THAT'S NOT FUNNY. IT'S **SCARY.**
MATT...I KNOW YOU NEED TO DO...YOU KNOW, THE DD THING...BUT WE'RE GETTING **SLAMMED** OUT THERE. WE NEED **FOCUS--**
I KNOW, FOG, BUT THE WAY FEAR IS **PLAYING** ME, I NEED TO CATCH A BREAK **OUTSIDE** THE COURTROOM.
HE **HAS** TO MAKE A MISTAKE, AND WHEN HE DOES --
NOT TO BE **INSENSITIVE,** PAL...BUT ARE YOU **BLIND?!?** THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT HE **WANTS** YOU TO DO!
HE WANTS YOU TO SPEND ALL NIGHT HUNTING HIM, AND ALL DAY GETTING FRUSTRATED!
YOU CANNOT WIN LIKE THIS!
IS IT WORTH NAILING THE **BAD GUY** IF KAREN GETS THE **CHAIR?!?**
--AS THE TRIAL NEARS ITS **FINAL** PHASE, ALL INDICATORS POINT TO A **GUILTY VERDICT** FOR KAREN PAGE.
LOOKS LIKE EVEN **MURDOCK,** KNOWN FOR SPECTACULAR SAVES IN THE COURTROOM, WON'T BE ABLE TO WORK HIS **MAGIC** HERE--
--NOT UNLESS HE'S GOT A **GUARDIAN ANGEL** ON HIS SHOULDER--
IT'S NOT MAGIC...IT'S ALWAYS SKILL WITH MURDOCK... **ALWAYS.**
PAI, THE LEAR. **TWENTY MINUTES.**
WE'RE GOING **HOME.**

"WHEN YOU HIT BOTTOM... WHEN YOUR BEST FRIEND IMPLIES THAT YOU MIGHT KILL THE WOMAN YOU LOVE...
"THERE'S REALLY NOWHERE LEFT TO GO BUT UP.
"ASSUMING ONE HAS STRENGTH LEFT TO CLIMB."
THEY NEVER TOLD US ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING IN SCHOOL... GUMMED UP TAPES, SKIPPING CD'S, SURE...
BUT MURDERS AND SUPER HEROES ARE SO OUT OF MY DEPTH.
WFSK
MINE TOO, APPARENTLY. GO FOR IT.
THE COMPUTERS ARE WRONG... I CAN PICK OUT FEAR'S VOICE, NO MATTER HOW HE DISGUISES IT... BUT I CAN'T PROVE IT IN COURT.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TORTURING MYSELF...LISTENING TO FEAR GIGGLE ABOUT THE FUN AND GAMES HE HAS IN STORE FOR KAREN IS JUST--
WHOA.
I'VE BEEN SO OBSESSED WITH FEAR..I DIDN'T EVEN THINK TO LISTEN TO EVERYTHING ELSE ON THE TAPE.
SPACES BETWEEN WORDS...
...DRAMATIC PAUSES...
BACKGROUND NOISE.
A SUBWAY. FROM THE ECHO, AND THE DEPTH OF THE SOUND, IT'S LITERALLY FEET AWAY, UNDERGROUND, SEPARATED BY CONCRETE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GONNA HEAR, I'VE ALREADY RUN THESE TAPES THROUGH THE MACHINE FIFTY TIMES, AND THEY'RE A MATCH.
SO YOU SAID... HUMOR ME.
PIECES START TO CONGEAL...MARISSA. MARISSA--MILDEW.
NOT JUST THE REEK OF SUBTERRANEA... BUT THE STENCH THAT YOU GET WHEN RIFLING THROUGH OLD BOOKS.
LAW BOOKS.
NAILED.

RIKERS...
HEY... PAGE.
KAREN PAGE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE. THANKS FOR PLAYING. NOW BACK OFF.
PAGE, I'M NOT LOOKING TO BUST YOUR CHOPS...
...I JUST WANTED TO SAY... Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY HARD-CORE.
I AM, AM I?
YEAH... FIGURED, PRETTY CELEB LIKE YOU WOULD GET IN THE JOINT AND CRACK...
...BUT YOU'RE A TOUGH. NO ONE MESSES WITH YOU. YOU'RE ALRIGHT.
I DON'T FEEL ALRIGHT, BUT THANKS...?
NINA. JUST NINA...
...HEY, YOU MIND IF WE HANG A LITTLE? I'M BORED.
YEAH... SURE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S SUCH A STERLING IDEA FOR ME TO BE ALONE RIGHT NOW --
SOON AS WE GET THE SIGNAL, SHE GOES DOWN.
SOLID... BADGE-KILLING WITCH.
THE TOMBS...
⚡SIGH⚡ I'M ALMOST SAD TO SEE THE TRIAL COME TO A CLOSE... OF COURSE, THERE WILL BE APPEALS, AND THE LIKE --
-- AND THERE'S STILL A GOOD MONTH OR SO BEFORE MURDOCK SNAPS COMPLETELY...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE THRILL OF WATCHING IT ALL COME TOGETHER.
SURE THERE IS, FEAR... THE THRILL OF LYING IN A HOSPITAL BED WATCHING YOUR BONES REKNIT.
YOU'LL LOVE IT.
CHALMER

NO!
YOU HAD ME.
I DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU DID. HAD ME WRAPPED UP AND READY FOR THE CURB... UNTIL YOU PUSHED IT.
THE SHOWMAN IN YOU, FEAR. THE DRAMA DID IT. YOU DIDN'T THINK TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PERFORMANCES.
THE GIRL IN THE SKYLIGHT... GREAT EFFECT. BUT SHE CAME WITH CLUES. STINK OF MILDEW. BOOKS.
THEN THE CALLS, PERFECT SET UP... EXCEPT FOR THE SUBWAY IN THE BACKGROUND, THE ECHO...
...LAST, YOUR CHOICE OF TAUNTS. INTONATIONS. AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE "BLIND LADY" OF JUSTICE...
THERE AREN'T MANY LAW LIBRARIES IN THIS CITY... EVEN FEWER RIGHT NEXT TO SUBWAY LINES. COLUMBIA.
SUCKS TO BE YOU.
HARDLY, DEV --
OOF!
NO... THIS ISN'T RIGHT...
...AS LONG AS I HAVE KAREN IN JAIL, MURDOCK TRAPPED IN HIS PRECIOUS SYSTEM, AND A PISTOL FULL OF FEAR GAS -- IT'S STILL MY SHOW!
AARGH!

HOW DOES THAT FEEL, MURDOCK?! YOU'RE ALREADY CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT...
...A LITTLE PSYCHOGENIC BOOST OUGHT TO THROW YOU SCREAMING OVER THE EDGE!
SO, YOU UNEARTHED MY LAIR, WHO CARES?! I HAVE ALL OTHER BASES COVERED! THE THE WORLD IS STACKED AGAINST YOU!
THE TRIAL IS PROCEEDING PERFECTLY, THE JURY SITS DEEP IN MY POCKET --
-- AND DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD LET POOR, ONLY-SLIGHTLY-FILTHY KAREN SPEND TIME IN JAIL UNATTENDED?
IF EVER A WELL HAS BEEN SO COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY POISONED...
...IT IS THE ONE YOU'RE DROWNING IN NOW.
NO.
NOT THIS TIME. I BROUGHT MY SWIMMIES.
Oh, MY.
KRAAAK
I MAY BE EASY TO MANIPULATE AND A TAD DENSE AT TIMES... BUT I'M NOT REALLY STUPID!
HOW MUCH MILEAGE DID YOU PLAN TO GET OUT OF THE "FEAR GAS IN THE FACE ROUTINE"?!
IT'S OVER, FEAR. YOU MAY HAVE SWINDLED YOUR WAY THIS FAR -- BUT THE GAMES STOP HERE.
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME ANY MORE. I KNOW WHERE I STAND. MY FAITH IS UNSHAKABLE. I'M SOLID ON EARTH.
N- NO... NOT OVER... YET... SO LONG AS YOU DON'T GET THIS --
I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE.
DEET
GOOD FOR YOU.

I SMELLED THE *THERMITE* WHEN I SLIPPED IN, BUT NEVER FIGURED HE'D USE IT WHILE HE WAS IN THE *BUILDING*.
THAT MEANS HE'S DESPERATE... WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS ONLY *HALF* GOOD.
THE LIGHT MAY BE *ON*, DEVIL, BUT THE MONSTER *STILL* LURKS IN THE *CLOSET*.
YOU MAY PROCEED WITH BEATING ME TO A PULP, BUT I WILL *NEVER* CONFESS... NEVER GIVE YOU AN OUT --
-- MEANWHILE, ALL THE EVIDENCE THAT *MIGHT* SAVE KAREN WILL SMOLDER AROUND US!
COME ON! COME *GET* ME!
THAT *BOOK* HE TOSSED INTO THE FLAMES... COULD BE *NOTHING*... BUT I CAN NEVER TELL WHEN HE'S *LYING* TO ME --
-- THAT INFERNAL *FEAR GAS* HAS GIVEN ME AN *ERRATIC HEARTBEAT* --
-- I WAS SO CLOSE... BUT HE'S RIGHT... HIS ARREST MIGHT *NOT* HELP KAREN'S CASE AT ALL... I NEED MORE --
-- I'M *SORRY*, KAREN.
THIS ISN'T *FUNNY*, FOGGY. WHERE *IS* HE?
Um... GETTING READY TO BURST IN WITH A LAST MINUTE *SURPRISE DEFENSE*?
YEAH, *RIGHT*.
HEY, YOU JUST SIT THERE AND LOOK INNOCENT.
WELL, *COUNSELOR*? IS THE DEFENSE READY TO REST ITS *CASE*?
NOT EXACTLY, Um, Mr. MURDOCK IS JUST WRESTLING UP A LAST MINUTE *AFFIDAVIT* OR TWO --
NO, WHAT HE'S DOING IS TREADING TEN SECONDS AWAY FROM A *CONTEMPT-OF-COURT* CHARGE --

YOUR HONOR! WAIT!
MY APOLOGIES, YOUR HONOR -- FEEL FREE TO FINE ME TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT --
-- AS LONG AS YOU ALLOW THE DEFENSE TO SUBMIT EVIDENCE THAT CLEARLY EXONERATES MY CLIENT!
THE JOURNAL OF THE RECENTLY DECEASED JUDGE CHALMER -- OFFICER BOROUGHS' ILLEGITIMATE FATHER!
HIS WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL, MURDOCK? THIS IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!
YOUR HONOR, I BEG THE COURT'S INDULGENCE. I JUST OBTAINED THIS MATERIAL LAST NIGHT, AND WE'VE BEEN SCRAMBLING TO HAVE IT VERIFIED.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND A GOOD HANDWRITING ANALYST AT THREE THIRTY IN THE MORNING.
IT'S TRUE, YOUR HONOR, I'VE BEEN COMPARING THE JOURNAL TO THE JUDGE'S NOTES FOR AUTHENTICITY.
THE BOOK IS HIS... AND QUITE TELLING.
THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL... AND HOPEFULLY RELEVANT --
I OBJECT! HOW CAN WE ENTERTAIN THIS FANTASY --?
YOUR HONOR, THE JOURNAL NOT ONLY IDENTIFIES CHARLES BOROUGHS AS THE SADISTIC "TRIPLE THREAT" KILLER --
-- BUT IMPLICATES AS YET UNHEARD WITNESSES IN A CONSPIRACY AGAINST MY CLIENT, ENGINEERED BY Mr. FEAR!
AS TO THE AUTHENTICITY OF THE JOURNAL, I'M CERTAIN Mr. TOWER WOULDN'T DISPUTE THE WORK OF Dr. MOLLE...
...ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT HE IS THE STATE'S OWN EXPERT ON HANDWRITING ANALYSIS. HIS OFFICE IS DOWN THE HALL --
I KNOW WHERE HIS OFFICE IS... THANK YOU, COUNSELOR.
I GUESS WITNESSES CAN TESTIFY FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE, Eh, PROFESSOR?
WHAT?
BE QUIET, YOU IGNORANT SOW.

...CLEARLY, AND IN THE JUDGE'S **HANDWRITING**, "FORGIVE ME, LORD, BUT MY SON IS AN **ABOMINATION**. CHARLES IS A **MURDERER**, AN ANIMAL...
"...BUT I **CANNOT** BRING MYSELF TO PUNISH HIM IN A **PUBLIC FORUM**, AND EXPOSE MY OWN **TRESPASSES**.
"...I WILL **BURY** HIM IN THE SYSTEM, BEHIND THE **BLUE WALL OF SILENCE**. HE WAS A **COP** AND HIS **'BROTHERS'** WILL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE, AS LONG AS I DON'T TELL THEM **ALL** THE DETAILS...
"THE **UNTHINKABLE** HAS HAPPENED...CHARLES IS **BACK**, AND HE BROUGHT THE **DEVIL** WITH HIM.
"THERE WAS A **RIOT**... A RIOT FOR THE **EXPRESS** PURPOSE OF BREAKING CHARLES OUT OF JAIL... ENGINEERED BY A **GHOUL** CALLED **Mr. FEAR**."
...GOD HELP ME... HE THREATENED TO DO THINGS TO MY **KIDS** IF I DIDN'T KEEP **BOROUGHS** ON THE **I.A.D. ROSTER**...
...I'M RUINED, BUT I DON'T **CARE**. FEAR HAS NO HOLD ON ME NOW.
"...ALL OF IT, BY Mr. FEAR, IN ORDER TO PERPETRATE SOME HORRIBLE VENDETTA AGAINST A RADIO DISC JOCKEY THAT HE NEVER EXPLAINED..."
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING! DO YOU HEAR ME OUT THERE, FEAR?! I'M **NOT** POINTING FINGERS!
GIMME THE FIFTH!
AS I SAID **BEFORE**, TOWER... THE **JUDGE** IMPLICATED CHARLES BOROUGHS... HIS SON... IN A CONSPIRACY WITH Mr. FEAR --
-- TO **DESTROY** Ms. PAGE. CASE **CLOSED**.
YOU'VE HEARD THE NAME **AGAIN** AND **AGAIN**. Mr. FEAR, **MANIPULATOR**. Mr. FEAR, **DEMON**...
THIS MAN CAN **BEND MINDS**. HE CAN **INFLUENCE JUDGES**... HE CAN MAKE THE **WORLD** SPIN IN **REVERSE**...
...AND HE MOST **CERTAINLY** HAD THE POWER TO FRAME MY **CLIENT**.

PAUSE, AGAIN... JUST TO RELISH THE WORDS IN MY MOUTH... THE WORDS I KNOW THE JURY WANTS TO HEAR.
CLEARLY, YOU MUST FIND THE DEFENDANT NOT GUILTY OF ALL CHARGES, AND SET HER FREE IMMEDIATELY.
THANK YOU.
SO, PROFESSOR, I GUESS IT'S GOING TO BE BACK TO THE CLASSROOM WITH YOU. LOOKS LIKE "MAGIC MATT MURDOCK'S" PULLED ANOTHER ONE OUT OF HIS HAT --
THE TRIAL IS NOT OVER YET, STAR.
Oh, COME ON! THIS ONE IS SHUT TIGHT --
GODS, WOMAN, YOU DO LIKE TO HEAR YOURSELF TALK...
...LAST I CHECKED, THERE WAS STILL A JURY TO DECIDE CASES... AND SOMETIMES JURIES SEE WHAT WE DO NOT.
STEIG PARK HOTEL
THE WORLD IS SLEEPING... SORT OF --
-- IT'S MORE OF A HALF-SLEEP, GRAVID AND RESTLESS WITH ANXIETY.
FEAR SAID THAT HE'D POISONED THE WELL, BUT AT NO POINT DURING THE TRIAL DID I SMELL TRACES OF HIM ON THE JURY.
WHICH MEANS IF HE'S GOING TO TRY TO INFLUENCE ANYONE, IT'S GOING TO BE TONIGHT...
...OR HE'S ALREADY DONE IT.
EITHER WAY I HAVE UNTIL MORNING TO FIGURE IT OUT... WITHOUT TAMPERING WITH THE JURY MYSELF, OF COURSE.
MY HEARTBEAT SOUNDS SO LOUD...

...I HOPE IT'S **NERVES...**
...AND NOT THE SINKING FEELING THAT FEAR WASN'T JUST MOUTHING OFF WHEN HE MENTIONED THE PRISON... AND KAREN.
FREEDOM.
FREEDOM.
FREEDOM.
ENJOY IT, PAGE... LAST TIME YOU'LL HAVE ANY FEELING IN THAT ***PERFECT*** LITTLE BODY OF YOURS...
...THE ***WORD*** CAME THROUGH... WATCH THE ***DOOR.***
'COURSE, JUST LEAVE SOME FOR ***ME.***
I'LL TRY.
KRACKK
WHA --?! WHO'S THERE?
NINA? HOW DID YOU GET --
SCARE YOU? SORRY, PAGE. THEY'LL NEVER OIL THAT DOOR. MAKES A REAL ***RACKET.***
YOU'RE OUT OF HERE ***TOMORROW,*** RIGHT?
IF THE JURY HAS ***EYES,*** THEN ***YES...***
GOOD FOR YOU... I JUST WANTED TO SAY... IT WAS NICE... TO GET TO ***KNOW*** YOU A LITTLE.
THANKS, NINA. YOU ***TOO.*** YOU... YOU HAVE MUCH MORE TIME HERE?
NOT AT ALL, ACTUALLY. I'M FOLLOWING IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS. I'LL BE HOME WITHIN THE WEEK!
THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU HAVE SOMEONE TO GO ***HOME*** TO?
...
USED TO. BUT NOW HE'S GOT SOMEONE ***ELSE.***
I'M SORRY --
DON'T BE... SHE'S ***COOL. TOUGH.*** HE'S ***BETTER OFF.***

I DIDN'T USED TO THINK SO... BUT SHE'S IMPRESSED ME.
ANYWAY, GET OUT OF HERE, PAGE. GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP SO YOU'RE PRETTY FOR THE CAMERAS TOMORROW.
THANKS, NINA... TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, KIDDO... I GOT IT COVERED.
JUST TAKE CARE OF THAT BOY-FRIEND OF YOURS.
BECAUSE, SOMETIMES... HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO ASK FOR HELP... EVEN WHEN HE NEEDS IT.
YOU'RE WELCOME, MATTHEW... I HOPE YOU TWO LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
MORNING. I FEEL NOTHING.
THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW. THE GROUND DOESN'T SHAKE.
EVERYTHING IS HOLDING ITS BREATH... AND WAITING.
NOTHING TURNED UP LAST NIGHT. NO CLUES. NO GRAND GESTURES. IF FEAR DID GET TO THE JURY... I MISSED IT.
IF HE GOT TO THE JURY... I'M DEAD.
COME ON! ELEVEN TO ONE, NOT GUILTY! WHO'S HOLDING OUT?
I STILL HAVE SOME ISSUES...
DID WE WATCH THE SAME TRIAL? WHAT ISSUES COULD YOU STILL HAVE?
WAIT... I CAN'T EXPLAIN SO WELL...
...LET ME JUST WRITE OUT THIS ARGUMENT, AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN...

THEY'RE TAKING THEIR **SWEET TIME,** AREN'T THEY? SOMEONE FORGET HOW TO SPELL "**NOT** GUILTY"?
HE GOT TO THEM.
I **MISSED** SOMETHING. TOO **TIRED. SLOPPY. DISTRACTED.**
AND NOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT... I CAN'T SLIP AWAY... CAN'T **BARGE** IN ON THE JURY ROOM --
-- I DID ALL I **COULD...** GOD HELP ME IF IT WASN'T ENOUGH --
SUDDENLY, A RUSH OF AIR. A POUND OF FEET. SOMETHING HURLS TOWARD ME --
MOVE IT MOVE IT!! **HEART ATTACK!!!**
WHAT?!?
MATT! HE'S ON THE **JURY!**
HEART ATTACK? THERE WERE NO INDICATIONS IN THE MAN'S **HEARTBEAT** DURING THE TRIAL...
FEAR.
NO... WAIT...
WHAT ABOUT THE **TRIAL?**
THE **ALTERNATE** IS ALREADY IN THERE... THEY SAY A VERDICT WILL COME IN **FIFTEEN MINUTES--**
NOT FEAR. NO...
MY ENTIRE WORLD TAKES A DRAMATIC PAUSE... THEN THE **APPROACH.**
THE **BASS** OF HIS HEARTBEAT IS STRONG ENOUGH THAT I FEEL IT IN MY OWN **CHEST...** PRESSING DOWN ON MY **RIBS.**
HIS LUNGS **PULL** THE AIR RIGHT OUT OF MINE WITH SUCH **FORCE** THAT I GET **LIGHT-HEADED.**
THEN THE VOICE, AND MY EARS ALMOST BLEED.
DELIGHTFUL DAY FOR A **VERDICT,** DON'T YOU THINK, **COUNSELOR?**

WHAT?
NO *HUG?*
>*HUURMF*< I THOUGHT YOU WOULD *APPRECIATE* THAT, MURDOCK. I'D HEARD YOU'D DEVELOPED A *SENSE OF HUMOR* IN MY... ABSENCE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, *FISK?*
TUT TUT... SUCH VENOM... TOWARDS A *FRIEND* HELPING A *FRIEND*.
A *PRESENT*.
THE GHOUL USED HYPNOSIS SO YOU COULDN'T SMELL THE GAS. CLEVER...
BUT HE SHOULD HAVE CHOSEN A JUROR WITH A STRONGER *HEART*. HE'LL *LIVE*, DON'T WORRY. JUST WITH A *PACEMAKER*.
YOU -- WHY? *WHY?*
SIMPLE. SOMEONE WAS PLAYING IN *MY* SANDBOX...
...AND *NO ONE* GETS TO BREAK YOU BUT *ME*.
CONGRATULATIONS, COUNSELOR. YOU WON YOUR WOMAN'S FREEDOM.
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A *FRIEND*.
I TRUST YOU WILL *REMEMBER* THE FAVOR... WHEN I *RETURN*.
"WHOA."

NOT GUILTY.
I &%$# QUIT.
I WILL SAY NICE THINGS ABOUT DISTRICT ATTORNEY TOWER.
I WILL THANK THE JURY FOR KEEPING AN OPEN MIND.
I WILL WEATHER THE SEA OF ANXIOUS REPORTERS AND POPPING FLASHBULBS AND DUMB QUESTIONS WITH A SMILE...
...BUT I WON'T EVER TELL ANYONE HOW THIS DAY WORKED OUT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THE WORLD HAS RIGHTED ITSELF. THE EARTH IS BACK ON COURSE.
THE SYSTEM... MY SYSTEM, MADE OF EQUAL PARTS OF LUCK AND SKILL... LIGHT AND DARK... HAS WORKED...

AND FEAR'S ***FAILED.***
I'M DIZZY WITH JOY. I FEEL LIKE SCREAMING ABOUT LOVE AND FAITH AND THE SMELL OF HER HAIR FROM THE NEAREST ROOFTOP...
...BUT ***SILENCE*** DOES THE TRICK INSTEAD.
IT'S OVER...
... ALL ***OVER.***
DON'T BET ON IT.
3

Next:
FLYING BLIND
part 1

BONUS:
PREVIOUSLY UNSEEN COVER ART FOR
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
#368!
LEONARDI + LaRosa

MARVEL® COMICS
DAREDEVIL®
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
JUN #376
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FLYING BLIND PART 1
LOBDELL
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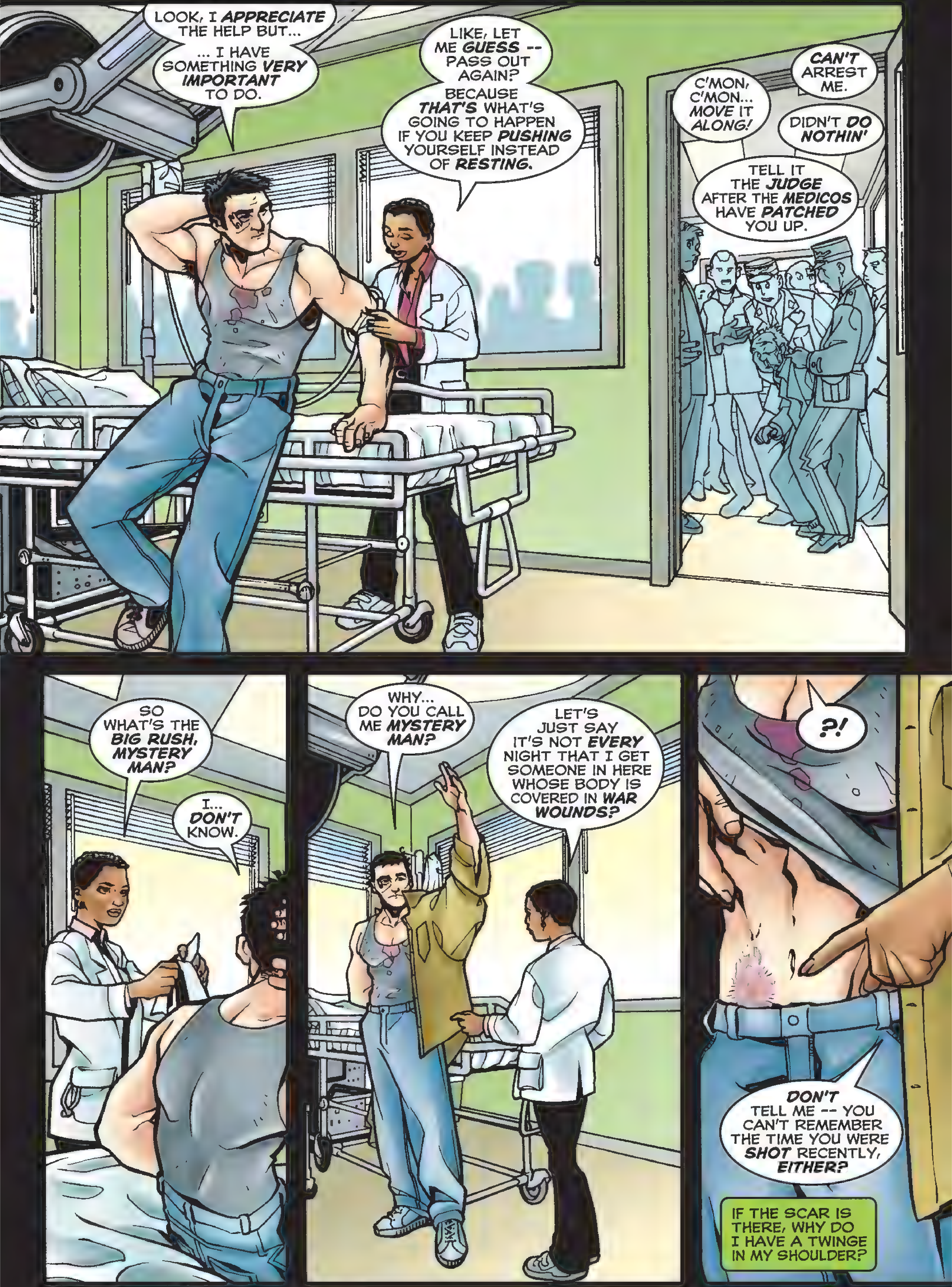
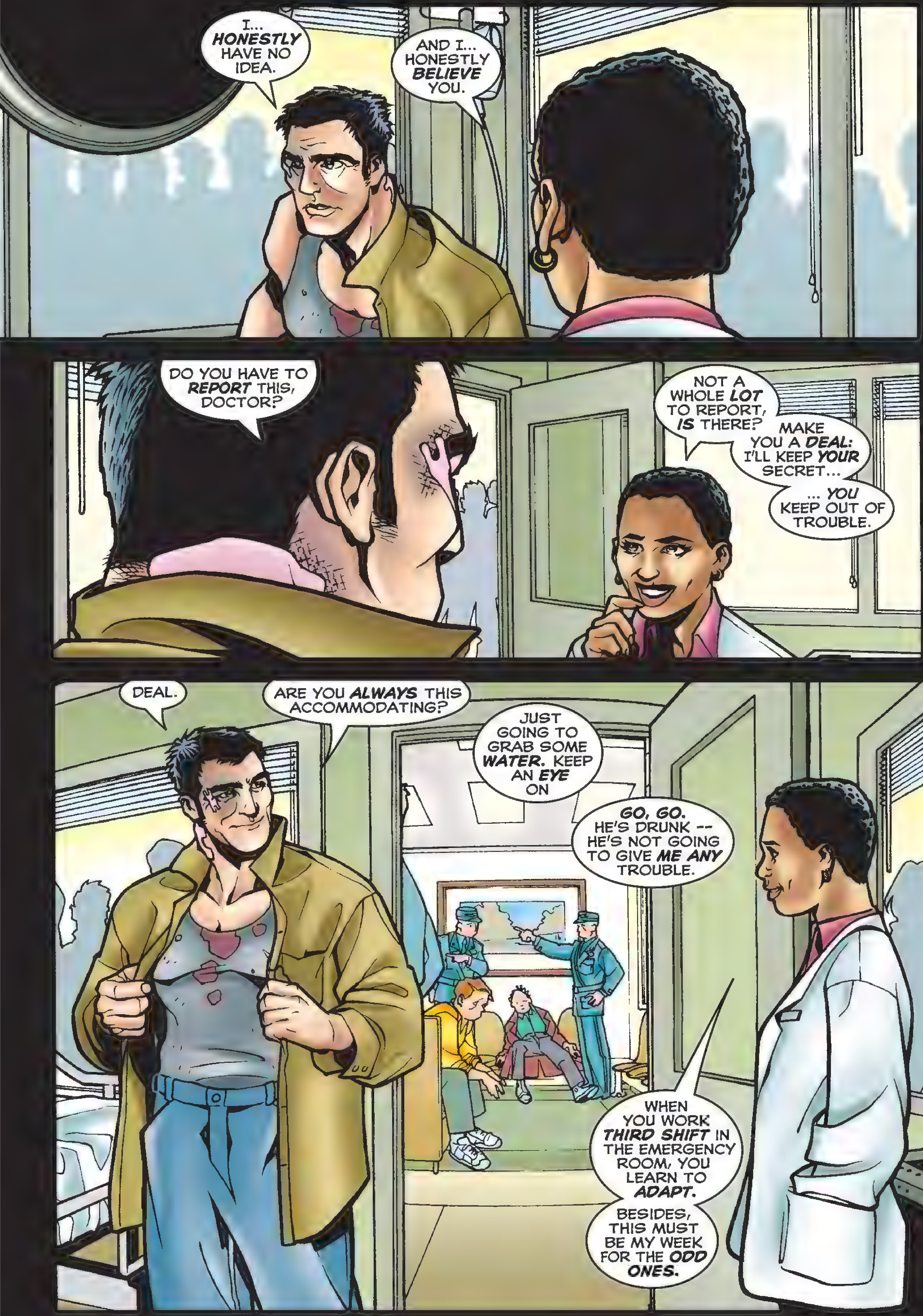
STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee PRESENTS
FLYING
CULLY HAMNER PENCILER
JASON MARTIN INKER
SCOTT LOBDELL WRITER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
Ow.
IT HURTS.
NOT JUST THE BRUISES...
EVERYTHING.
THE TASTE OF ANTISEPTIC IN THE AIR.
THE SPIDER'S BITE OF THE ADHESIVE CLINGING TO MY SKIN.
THE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS BLINDING ME WITH THEIR... INTENSITY?
BLINDING... ME?
SIR?
SIR, I HAVE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
BLIND
1 OF 4
RS & COMICRAFT /ST LETTERS
JAYE GARDNER & TIM TUOHY EDITORS
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

STARTING WITH YOUR **NAME** AND --
WHOA!
OW... MY EYES!
DO THOSE LIGHTS HAVE TO BE **SO BRIGHT?!**
THEY'RE **NOT. TRUST** ME.
NOW **CALM DOWN** BEFORE YOU **HURT** YOUR --
AHHH!
-- SELF.
WHAT... **HAPPENED** TO ME?
MEDICALLY?
YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM **MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS** AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A **MILD CONCUSSION.**
WHAT --?!
AM I SEEING HER IN...
... INFRA RED?
HOW WEIRD IS THAT?
IN **LAYMAN'S** TERMS, DOCTOR?
YOU'VE BEEN **MUGGED.**
THE **GOOD** NEWS IS -- WITH A LITTLE REST AND CARE, YOU'LL **BE FINE.**

I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE CONVERSATION IN FRONT OF ME.
BUT IT'S DIFFICULT.
IT'S AS IF...
AS IF I CAN HEAR EVERY WORD -- EVERY SOUND -- IN THE WAITING AREA OUTSIDE.
LAURENT SPEAKS LIKE THIS.
"COME HERE OFTEN...?"
"FRANCOIS WILL BE FINE."
"HOLD THE LIFT!"
ODDLY ENOUGH, IT'S ALL IN FRENCH.
ODDER STILL -- I FIND THAT ODD.
I MEAN, I'M FRENCH.
RIGHT?
DOCTOR..?
DUBOIS, CLAUDIA.
WHERE AM I?
AT MOTHER AREIL HOSPITAL, PARIS.
MY TURN. YOUR NAME?
LAURENT.
LAURENT LEVASSEUR.
YOU DON'T SOUND VERY SURE.
I AM.
REALLY.
I THINK.

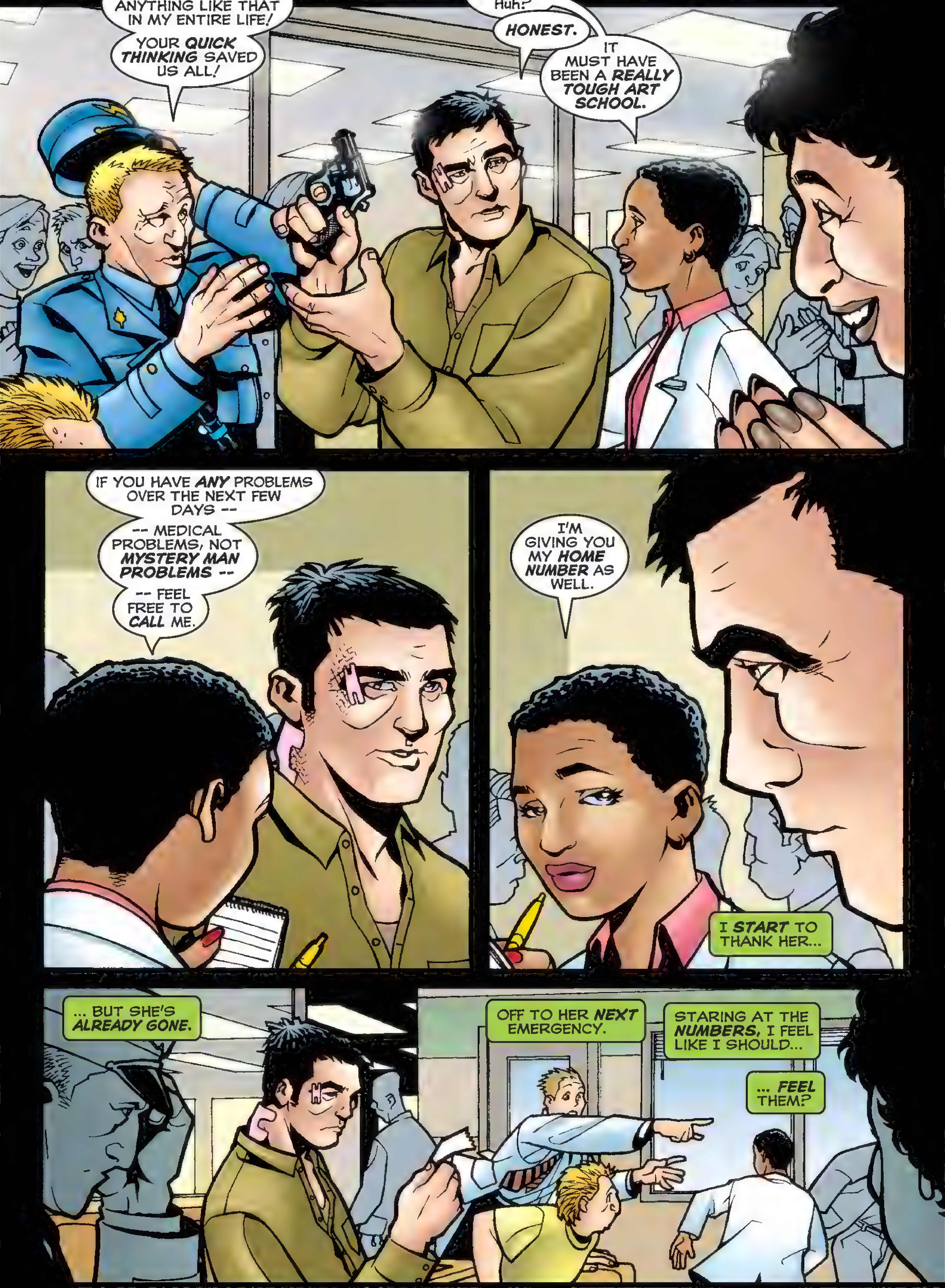

LOOK, I *APPRECIATE* THE HELP BUT...
... I HAVE SOMETHING *VERY IMPORTANT* TO DO.
LIKE, LET ME *GUESS* -- PASS OUT AGAIN?
BECAUSE *THAT'S* WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF YOU KEEP *PUSHING* YOURSELF INSTEAD OF *RESTING.*
C'MON, C'MON... *MOVE* IT *ALONG!*
CAN'T ARREST ME.
DIDN'T *DO NOTHIN'*
TELL IT THE *JUDGE* AFTER THE *MEDICOS* HAVE *PATCHED* YOU UP.
SO WHAT'S THE *BIG RUSH, MYSTERY MAN?*
I... *DON'T* KNOW.
WHY... DO YOU CALL ME *MYSTERY MAN?*
LET'S JUST SAY IT'S NOT *EVERY* NIGHT THAT I GET SOMEONE IN HERE WHOSE BODY IS COVERED IN *WAR WOUNDS?*
?!
DON'T TELL ME -- YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THE TIME YOU WERE *SHOT* RECENTLY, *EITHER?*
IF THE SCAR IS THERE, WHY DO I HAVE A TWINGE IN MY SHOULDER?

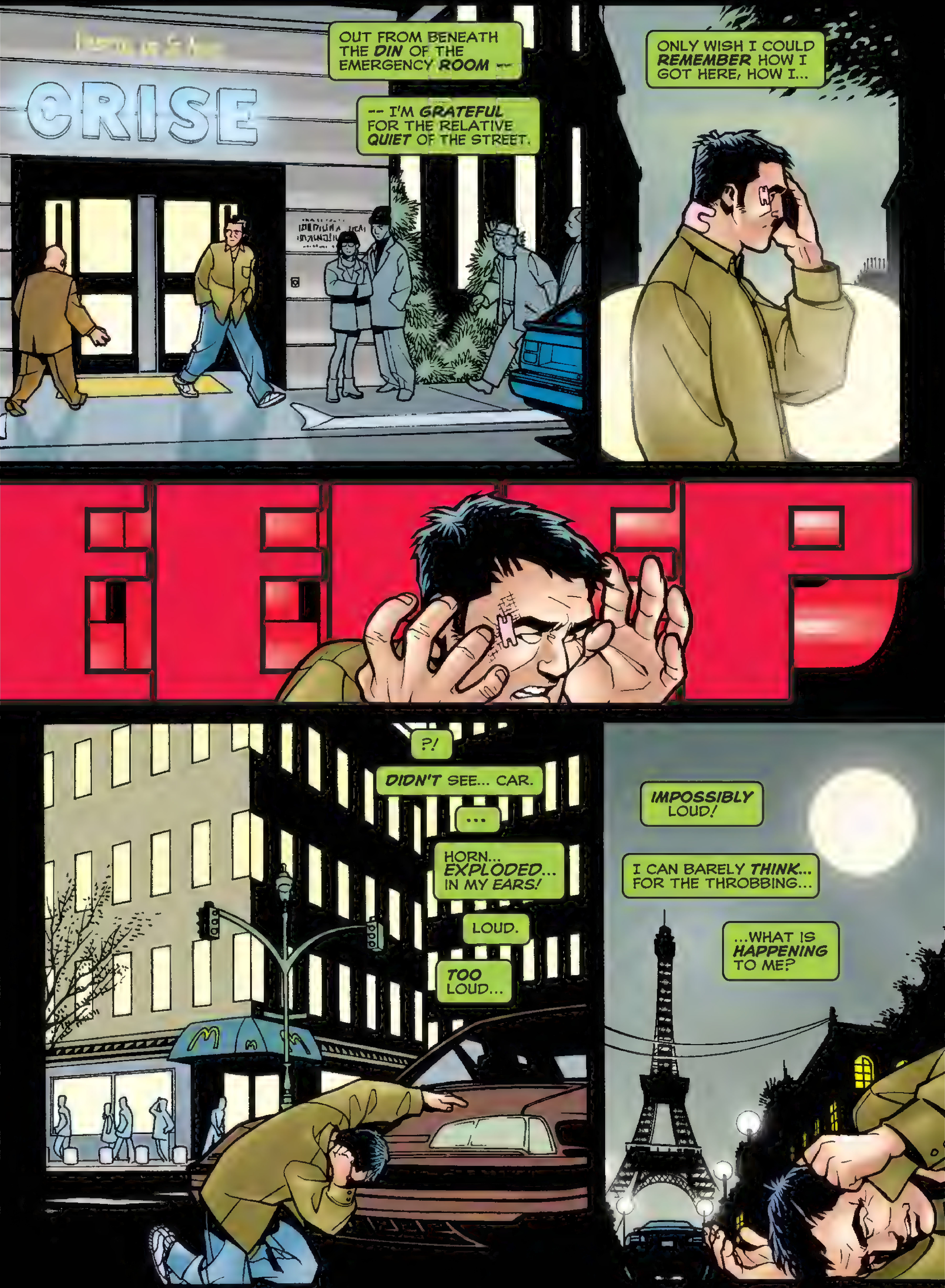

I... HONESTLY HAVE NO IDEA.
AND I... HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU.
DO YOU HAVE TO REPORT THIS, DOCTOR?
NOT A WHOLE LOT TO REPORT, IS THERE?
MAKE YOU A DEAL: I'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET...
... YOU KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE.
DEAL.
ARE YOU ALWAYS THIS ACCOMMODATING?
JUST GOING TO GRAB SOME WATER. KEEP AN EYE ON
GO, GO. HE'S DRUNK -- HE'S NOT GOING TO GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE.
WHEN YOU WORK THIRD SHIFT IN THE EMERGENCY ROOM, YOU LEARN TO ADAPT.
BESIDES, THIS MUST BE MY WEEK FOR THE ODD ONES.

Oh?
BUT I'M *NOT* LISTENING.
NOT TO *HER*.
I CAN HEAR A... A *HEARTBEAT?*
BUILDING?
RACING?
HEAR A HEARTBEAT?
THAT'S *ABSURD.*
HELLO?
DID YOU *HEAR* WHAT I *SAID?*
I'M SORRY... I WAS *DISTRACTED.*
SO *WHAT* IS IT THAT YOU DO FOR A LIVING?
ME?
IF I'M GOING TO *DISCHARGE* YOU *AGAINST* MY BETTER JUDGMENT --
-- I WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE RESTING.
I'M AN *ARTIST. ABSTRACT IMPRESSIONISM.*
I WON'T LIFT ANYTHING *HEAVIER* THAN A *BRUSH,* PROMISE.
HEARTBEAT IS... *POUNDING?*
SOMETHING'S UP.

KKLANG
IT SEEMS TO HAPPEN IN SLOW MOTION...
... TO ME, ANYWAY.
THE DRUNK IS ON HIS FEET...
... SWINGING THE BEDPAN...
Ow.
BEFORE THE COP LANDS...
... THE GUN IS IN THE DRUNK'S HAND...
HE'S UP...
... ABOUT TO FIRE OFF A WARNING SHOT...
... HEART RACING...
... THROAT CONSTRICTING...
... TRIGGER TIGHTEN...

TIME TO END THIS.
NOW.
ALMOST BEFORE I'VE EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT TO DO...
... I'M IN MOTION.
THE SOLE OF MY SHOE MAKING CONTACT WITH THE SIDE OF HIS HEAD.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE HE REACHED FOR THE BEDPAN?
FOUR SECONDS?
FIVE?
IT'S OVER ALMOST BEFORE IT BEGAN.
IF I WASN'T SO FREAKED OUT --
-- I'D BE IMPRESSED.
DON'T MOVE.


SACRE BLEU! I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN MY ENTIRE LIFE!
YOUR QUICK THINKING SAVED US ALL!
"ARTIST," Huh?
HONEST.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN A REALLY TOUGH ART SCHOOL.
IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS --
-- MEDICAL PROBLEMS, NOT MYSTERY MAN PROBLEMS --
-- FEEL FREE TO CALL ME.
I'M GIVING YOU MY HOME NUMBER AS WELL.
I START TO THANK HER...
... BUT SHE'S ALREADY GONE.
OFF TO HER NEXT EMERGENCY.
STARING AT THE NUMBERS, I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD...
... FEEL THEM?


CRISE
OUT FROM BENEATH THE DIN OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM --
-- I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE RELATIVE QUIET OF THE STREET.
ONLY WISH I COULD REMEMBER HOW I GOT HERE, HOW I...
BEEEP
?!
DIDN'T SEE... CAR.
...
HORN... EXPLODED... IN MY EARS!
LOUD.
TOO LOUD...
IMPOSSIBLY LOUD!
I CAN BARELY THINK... FOR THE THROBBING...
...WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

NEARBY...
I'M JUST SAYING WHAT I'M SAYING, THAT'S ALL.
WHILE I'M SURE THAT IS VERY CLEVER IN YOUR NATIVE AMERICAN SLANG --
-- I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MON AMI.
I'M JUST SAYING THAT THE LADY DOCTOR COULD BE A PROBLEM.
IF SHE PIECES TOGETHER WHAT IT IS SHE SAW THIS WEEK --
-- IT COULD MEAN THE END OF OUR BIG SCORE BEFORE IT EVEN STARTED.
THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING.
BASED ON THE REPUTATION OF OUR CURRENT EMPLOYER --
-- I DON'T THINK THERE IS MUCH THAT IS CAPABLE OF GETTING IN THE WAY OF HIS PLANS...

HOME.
AT LAST.
THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO **CHOKE** TO DEATH ON THE ***EXHAUST FUMES*** FROM THE BUS.
THOUGH NO ONE ***ELSE*** SEEMED TO MIND.
ARRÊT D'AUTOBUS
LA MOULES
THIS IS THE ***STREET*** WHERE I LIVE.
HAVE LIVED FOR THREE YEARS.
SO WHY IS IT AT ONCE ***FAMILIAR*** --
-- YET ***COMPLETELY ALIEN...***
... AS IF I'M LOOKING AT IT FOR THE ***FIRST TIME?***
MY LOBBY.
MADEMOISELLE, HOW LONG HAVE YOU ***WORKED*** HERE?
HOW OLD IS ***DIRT?***
OLD.
THIS MIGHT SOUND ***STRANGE,*** BUT... DO YOU ***KNOW*** ME?
NOT AS WELL AS I'D ***LIKE TO,*** I'M SURE.

Umm...
NO, I'M **SERIOUS.**
I'VE LIVED HERE FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS. IF YOU'VE WORKED HERE, YOU **MUST** HAVE **SEEN** ME COME AND GO BEFORE. **NO?**
I'M PAID PRETTY GOOD MONEY **NOT** TO NOTICE PEOPLE COMING **OR** GOING.
AGAIN... THE SLOW MOTION.
SHE **EXHALES** THE SMOKE.
...BUT IT DOESN'T **FEEL** LIKE SMOKE.
HOT!
BURNING!
LIKE SOMEONE **SHOOTING FLAME** DIRECTLY INTO MY **LUNGS!**
BUT IT'S JUST... **SECOND HAND SMOKE...**
...YET IT'S AS IF I CAN FEEL... **EVERY BURNING... VAPOR?**
HAK! COFF! HAK!
JUST AS **QUICKLY...** IT PASSES.
HEY, YOU **OKAY?**
FINE.
COFF FINE.
IF IT MEANS ANY-THING, **SNOW WHITE --**
-- I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED A REAL SENSITIVE GUY LIKE YOU!

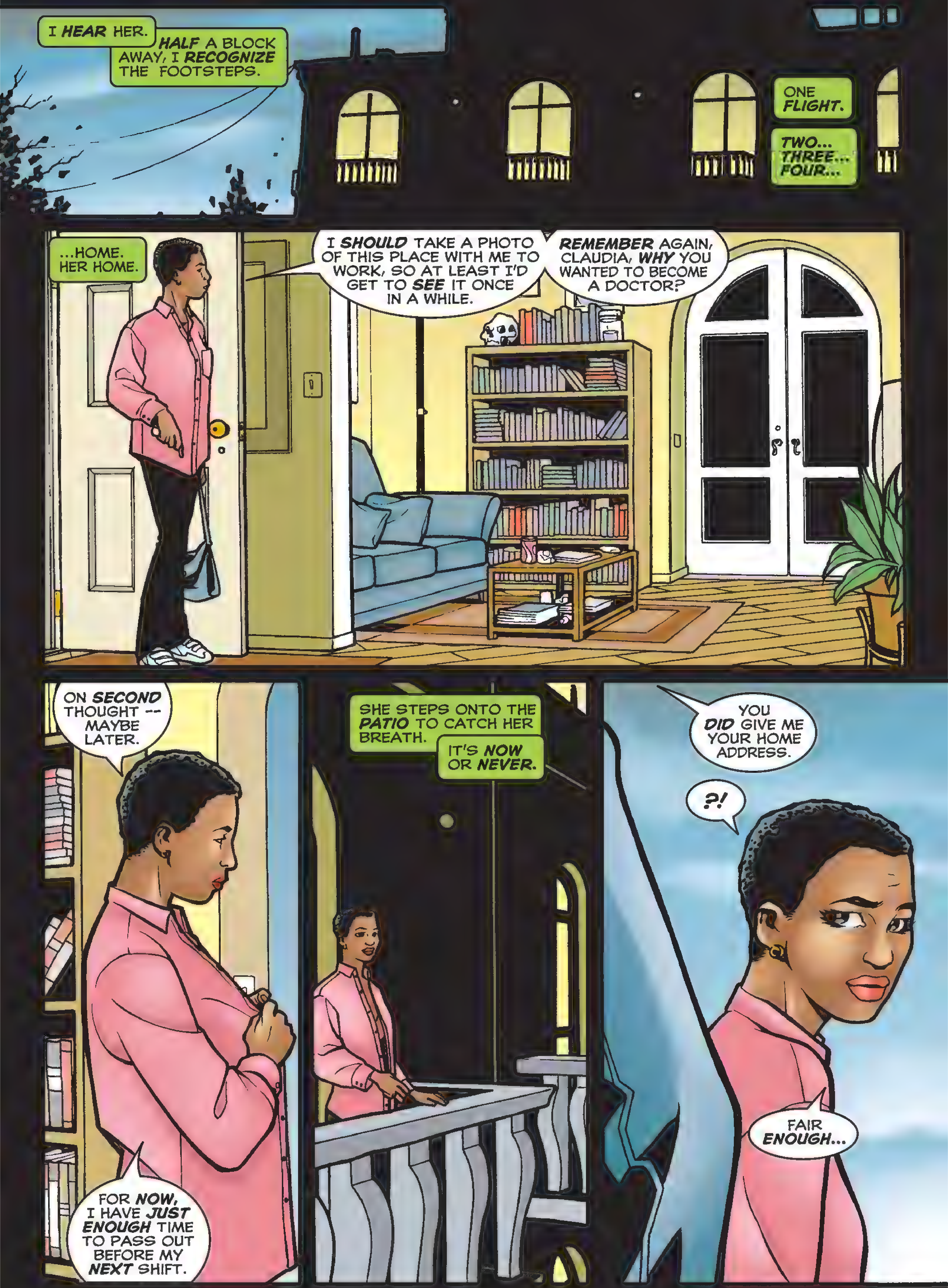
HOME, AT **LAST**.
LEAVE THE LIGHTS ***OFF*** FOR NOW.
FOR SOME REASON, I FEEL MORE ***COMFORTABLE*** IN THE DARK.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?
NO, NOT THE ***PAINTING...***
...THE ***IMAGE*** OF ME STANDING HERE IN MY UNLIT APARTMENT.
JUST THE WAY I LEFT IT...***WHEN?***
THIS ***MORNING?***
WHY IS IT SO HARD... TO REMEMBER?
I WAS ***WORKING*** -- THAT'S IT -- I WAS WORKING ON THIS ***PORTRAIT*** THIS MORNING FOR...
BUT, NO.
>SNIFF SNIFF<
THIS PAINT IS >SNIFF< ***EIGHT DAYS OLD.***
SO WHY DO I REMEMBER PAINTING THIS ***MORN*** --

LISTEN TO ME?! I'M ACTING LIKE I CAN DETERMINE THE AGE OF THE PAINT BY SMELLING IT?!
EITHER I'M COMPLETELY INSANE...
...OR SOMETHING VERY STRANGE IS HAPPENING TO MY BODY -- MY MIND.
I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE...
...TO HEAD BACK TO THE HOSPITAL.
TO HEAD ANYWHERE BUT HERE IN THIS UNFAMILIAR PLACE, UNTIL --
?!
SOMETHING I SMELL...
...SOMETHING I...RECOGNIZE?
HERE, IN THE APARTMENT.
THE CLOSET.
SMELLS OF... SPANDEX?
SMELLS OF...

...MY PAST?
WHAT IS IT?
WHOA.
A UNIFORM?
A COSTUME?
WHY IS IT SO FAMILIAR...YET SO FRIGHTENING AT THE SAME TIME?
DID I LEAD SOME SORT OF DOUBLE LIFE?
AM I A SECRET AGENT?
A SERIAL KILLER?
A SUPER HERO?
A SUPER-VILLAIN?
IS IT POSSIBLE --
-- CONSIDERING MY HEIGHTENED SENSES --
-- I'M A MUTANT?

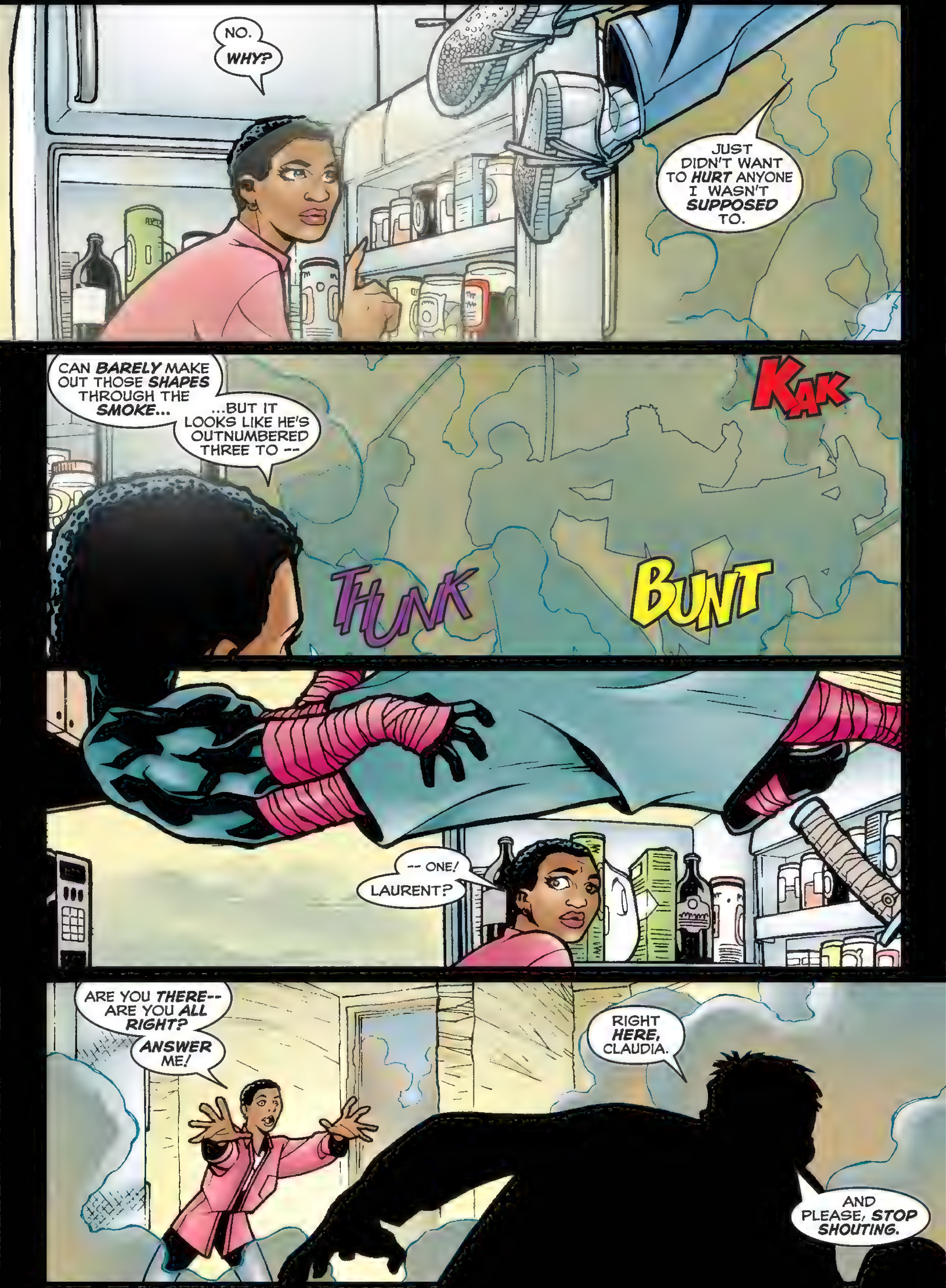
SOMEWHERE...
I HAVE TO ADMIT IT, I'VE NEVER BEEN A BIG FAN OF THE SO-CALLED "SUPER HEROES."
...BUT WHEN S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDED SOMEONE TO GO DEEP UNDERCOVER IN ORDER TO PROTECT EXTREMELY DELICATE INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS, THIS DAREDEVIL GUY CAME THROUGH.
IMAGINE, HAVING YOUR ENTIRE BRAIN REPROGRAMMED WITH AN IDENTITY THAT'S NOT EVEN YOURS.
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS OF INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT LOGISTICAL DIVISION
HE WAS MAKING A MAJOR SACRIFICE.
SURE, HE GETS HIS LIFE BACK WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER...
...BUT STILL.
I ONLY WISH I COULD HAVE TOLD HIM THE TRUTH.
BUT IF I CONFIDED IN ANYONE EXACTLY WHAT I WAS DOING --
-- OR WHY --
-- ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D. WOULD HAVE SHUT ME DOWN IN A NEW YORK MINUTE.
NIGHT, AGENT.
NIGHT, MAX.

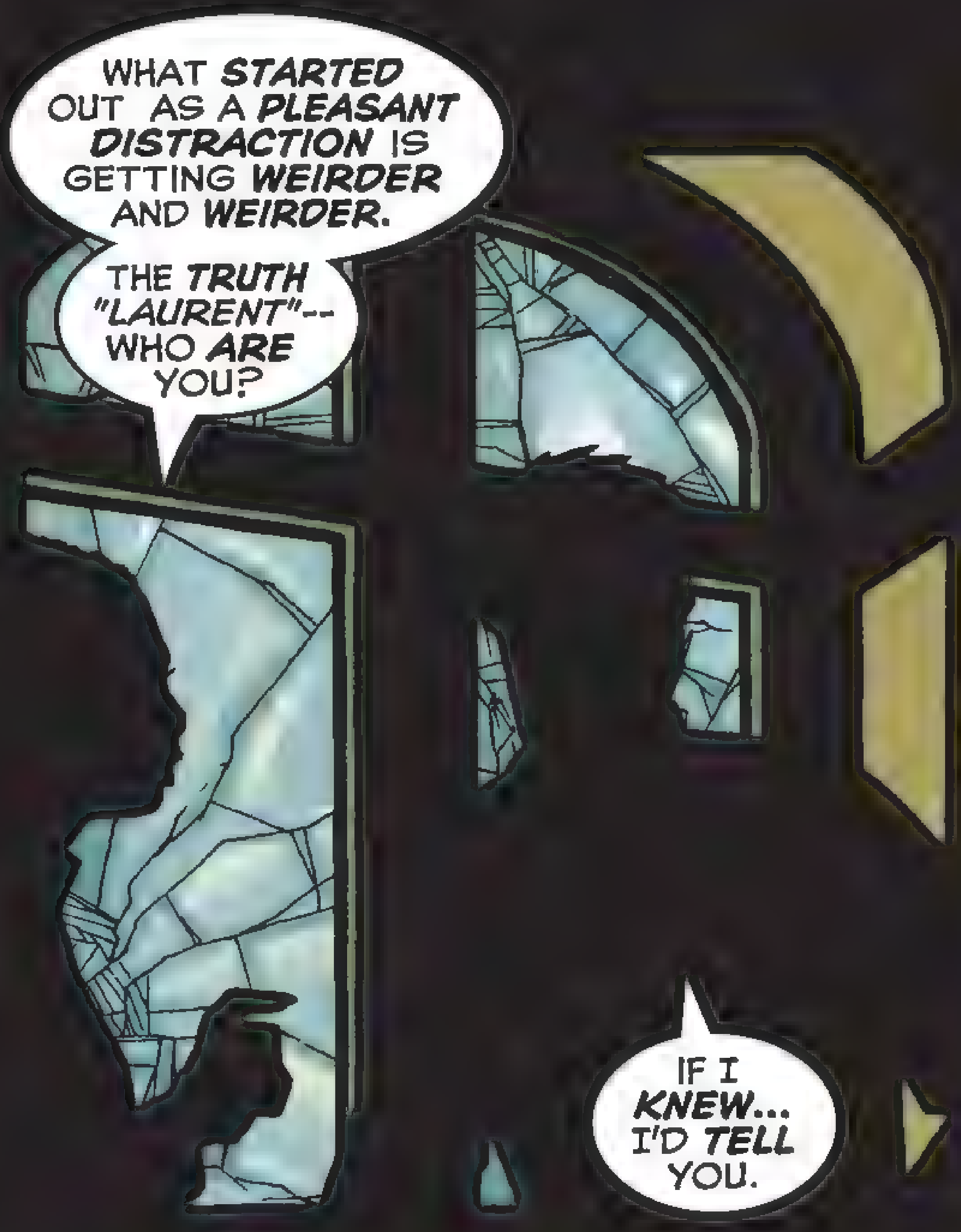
WHEN THIS IS **ALL OVER,** I REALIZE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO **LEAVE** S.H.I.E.L.D....
...HOPE I DON'T GET **COURT-MARTIALED.**
310
BUT **UNTIL** THEN, DAREDEVIL AND I ARE THE **ONLY HUMAN BEINGS** ON THE **PLANET** WHO KNOW WHO'S WORKING **UNDERCOVER.** AND EVEN HE DOESN'T --
JURY
WHA --?!
THAT **TIRE** ON THE **TRUCK** -- IT **BLEW!**
BAM
GET OUT OF THE **WAY, BUDDY!**
?!
SCREEE!
PLEASE, STOP.
PLEASE.

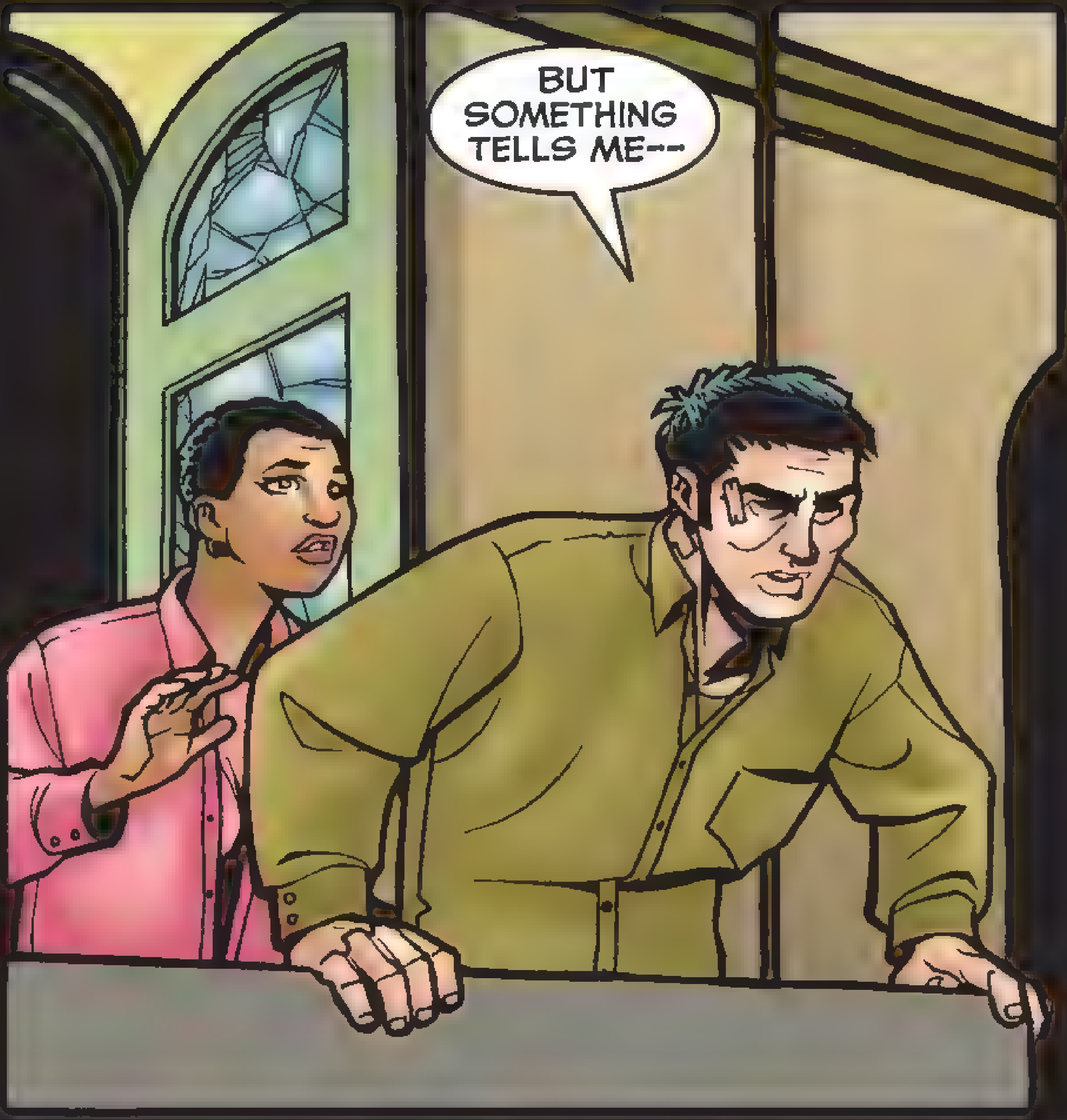

I HEAR HER.
HALF A BLOCK AWAY, I RECOGNIZE THE FOOTSTEPS.
ONE FLIGHT.
TWO... THREE... FOUR...
...HOME. HER HOME.
I SHOULD TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS PLACE WITH ME TO WORK, SO AT LEAST I'D GET TO SEE IT ONCE IN A WHILE.
REMEMBER AGAIN, CLAUDIA, WHY YOU WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR?
ON SECOND THOUGHT -- MAYBE LATER.
FOR NOW, I HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME TO PASS OUT BEFORE MY NEXT SHIFT.
SHE STEPS ONTO THE PATIO TO CATCH HER BREATH.
IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
YOU DID GIVE ME YOUR HOME ADDRESS.
?!
FAIR ENOUGH...

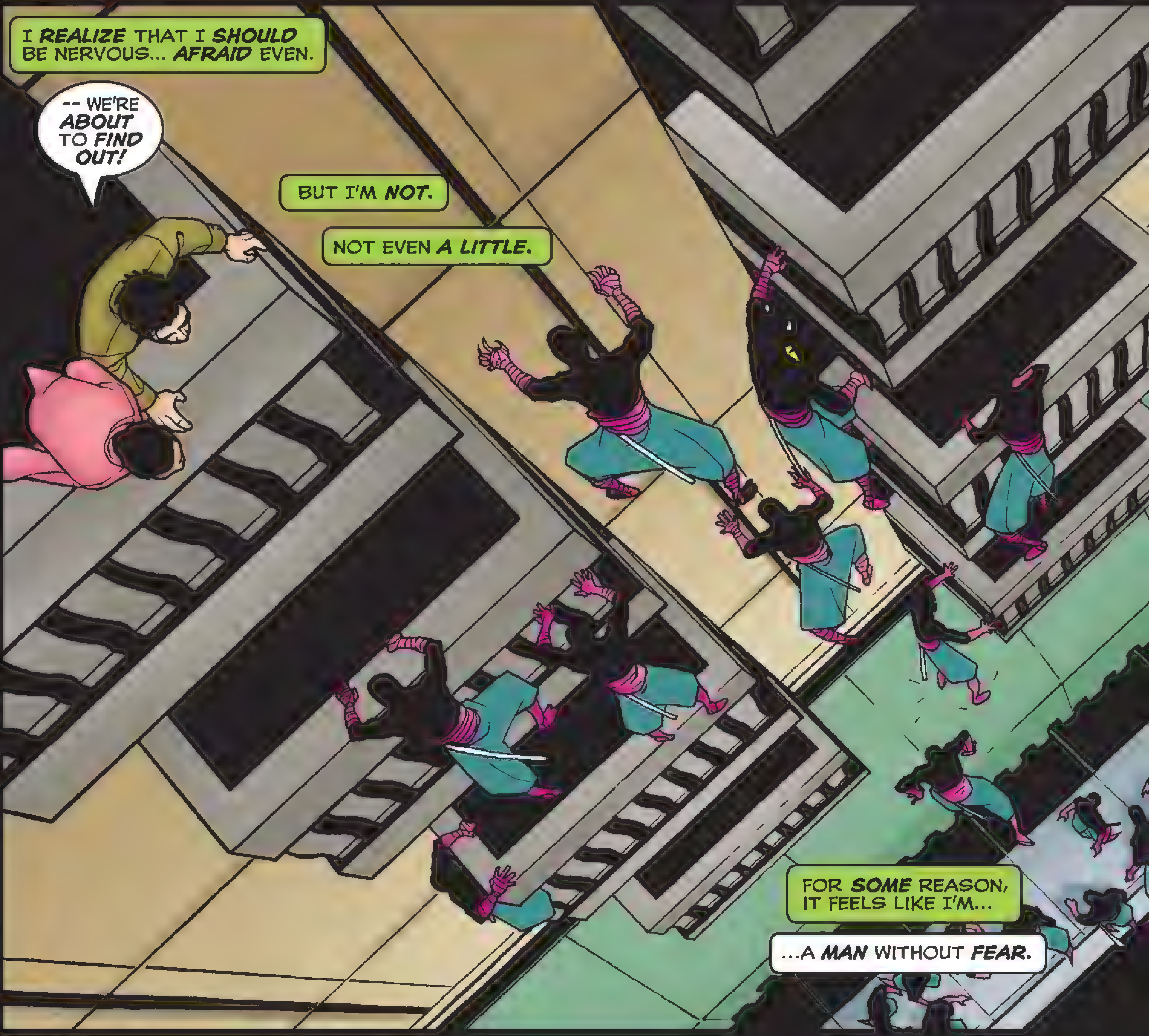
...BUT IS THERE A REASON YOU CHOSE THE LEDGE TO MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE?
Hmmp.
NOT TOO CONVENTIONAL, eh?
NOT TOO, NO.
BUT I'M BEGINNING TO THINK OURS IS GOING TO BE A DECIDEDLY UNCONVENTIONAL RELATIONSHIP.
NOW COME INSIDE BEFORE YOU BREAK YOUR NECK.
SURE.
LISTEN, CLAUDIA, I KNOW I DON'T KNOW YOU VERY WELL...
...HECK, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I KNOW ME VERY WELL..
...BUT I NEED YOUR HELP.
WAIT.
STOP.
HOLD IT.
IS THAT A "NO"?
I JUST NEED A DRINK BEFORE I HEAR THIS.
WANT ANYTHING?
CORDITE.
YOU WANT CORDITE, THE EXPLOSIVE?
NO, I SMELL IT...

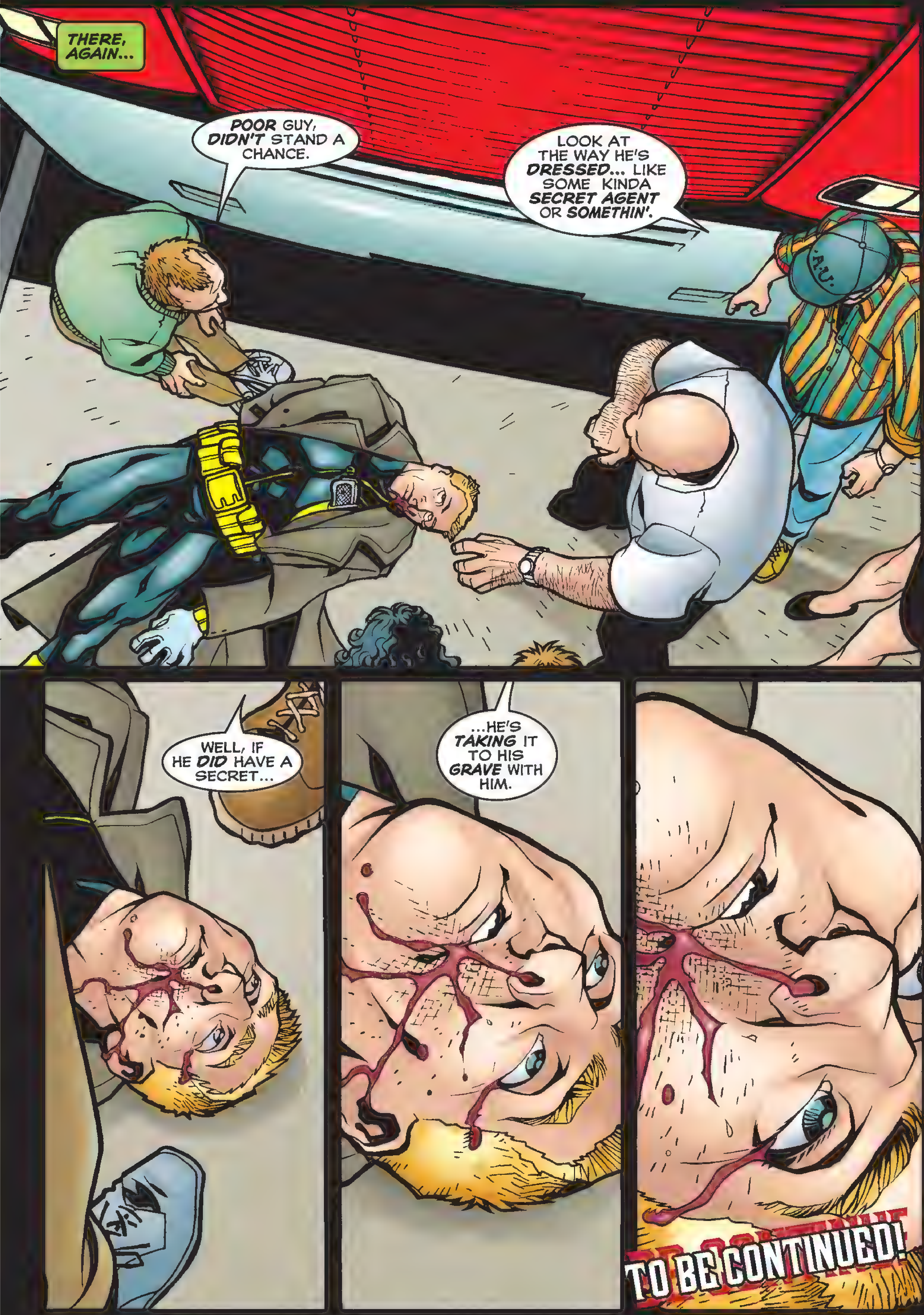
MERCIFULLY, THE **METAL** DOOR FROM THE **FRIDGE** PROTECTS US FROM THE **BRUNT** OF THE EXPLOSION!
STAY DOWN!
SOMEHOW -- MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS **EXPECTING** IT -- THE NOISE ISN'T AS **DEAFENING** AS I WOULD HAVE **THOUGHT**.
IT'S LIKE I CAN **INSTINCTIVELY** TUNE **UP** OR TUNE **DOWN** MY SENSES, LIKE A **DIAL** ON A **RADIO**.
BADABADA
BOOM
BUT... **THIS?**
THIS IS GOING TO TAKE SOME **GETTING USED** TO.
YOU **SEE** SOMETHING OUT THERE IN THE **SMOKE?**
NOT **EXACTLY.**
IT'S MORE LIKE I... **SENSE...** SOMETHING.
LIKE **ONE** PART OF MY BRAIN IS **SENDING** OUT **RADAR SIGNALS** --
-- AND **ANOTHER** PART IS **INTERPRETING** THOSE SIGNALS INTO **IMAGES** IN MY MIND.
AND NOT THE MOST **WELCOME** OF IMAGES EITHER.
CLAUDIA, WERE YOU **EXPECTING COMPANY?**


NO. WHY?
JUST DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO.
CAN BARELY MAKE OUT THOSE SHAPES THROUGH THE SMOKE...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S OUTNUMBERED THREE TO --
KAK
THUNK
BUNT
-- ONE! LAURENT?
ARE YOU THERE-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ANSWER ME!
RIGHT HERE, CLAUDIA.
AND PLEASE, STOP SHOUTING.


WHAT **STARTED** OUT AS A **PLEASANT DISTRACTION** IS GETTING **WEIRDER** AND **WEIRDER**.
THE **TRUTH** "LAURENT"-- WHO **ARE** YOU?
IF I **KNEW**... I'D **TELL** YOU.


BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME--


I **REALIZE** THAT I **SHOULD** BE NERVOUS... **AFRAID** EVEN.
-- WE'RE **ABOUT** TO **FIND OUT!**
BUT I'M **NOT**.
NOT EVEN **A LITTLE**.
FOR **SOME** REASON, IT FEELS LIKE I'M...
...A **MAN** WITHOUT **FEAR**.


THERE, AGAIN...
POOR GUY, DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE.
LOOK AT THE WAY HE'S DRESSED... LIKE SOME KINDA SECRET AGENT OR SOMETHIN'.
WELL, IF HE DID HAVE A SECRET...
...HE'S TAKING IT TO HIS GRAVE WITH HIM.
TO BE CONTINUED!

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
JUL
#377
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FLYING BLIND
PART 2
LOBDELL
MORGAN
HANNA
WWW.MARVEL.COM
ALL-OUT CHAOS IN THE STREETS OF FRANCE!

A MOMENT AGO, A CAREFULLY DETONATED EXPLOSION PLUNGED Dr. CLAUDIA DuBOIS'S APARTMENT INTO TOTAL DARKNESS.
WHETHER IT WAS DONE BECAUSE SOMEONE IS AFTER HER -- AN EMERGENCY ROOM DOCTOR WHOSE COMPASSION MAY OUTWEIGH HER COMMON SENSE...
... OR BECAUSE THEY'RE AFTER ME, AN AMNESIAC WITH HYPERACTIVE SENSES -- IS STILL OPEN FOR DEBATE.
BUT DON'T EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE ANSWERS.
I'M STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW I TOOK OUT A TRIO OF NINJAS WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT!
LAURENT... I CAN'T SEE A THING IN HERE!
ACTUALLY, CLAUDIA...

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
Stan Lee presents
FLYING
SCOTT LOBDELL WRITER
TOM MORGAN PENCILER
SCOTT HANNA INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
... GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING.
YOU ALMOST SOUND LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS.
I... ALMOST AM.
FOR SOME REASON, I'M NOT SCARED.
AT ALL.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I FEEL I HAVE SOME KIND OF ADVANTAGE OVER THEM.
EVEN OUTNUMBERED BY... BY A LOT... IT IS ALMOST AS IF I CAN SENSE EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.
MORE THAN SENSE -- LIKE MY MIND WAS PICKING UP SOME SORT OF RADAR SIGNALS -- IT'S MORE LIKE ALL OF MY SENSES ARE WORKING IN PERFECT UNISON.
I CAN SMELL THE CLOTHING -- SENSING WHICH PARTS OF THEIR BODIES ARE RESTRICTED OR CONFINED AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT.
I CAN TASTE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WOOD NUNCHUKS AND THE METAL SHURIKEN IN THE AIR.
I CAN FEEL THE HEAT FROM THEIR BODIES, TELLING ME WHO IS STANDING WHERE...
... WHILE THE SOUND OF THEIR HEARTBEATS INDICATES WHO PLANS TO STRIKE FIRST, AND WHO IS CONTENT TO WAIT FOR THE SECOND WAVE ASSAULT.
TOGETHER, ALL MY SENSES ARE LIKE SOME BRASH, BEAUTIFUL SYMPHONY --
-- AND I'M THE CONDUCTOR.
BLIND
2 OF 4
RS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ AGRAPHIOTIS LETTERS
TIM TUOHY EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF

WHAM
KRACKT
BOK
KAK
THWAP
LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT NINJAS?
THEY ALMOST *ALWAYS* STAND *TOO CLOSE TOGETHER.*
AND *YOU* KNOW THIS *BECAUSE..?*
I JUST DO.
THERE ARE *MORE* OF THEM?!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
THERE *ALWAYS* ARE.
TRUST ME, DOCTOR?
NOT AT *FIVE STORIES* ABOVE *GROUND* I DON'T, *NO!*
BELIEVE ME...
... YOU DON'T *WANT* TO GO BACK IN THERE.

YOU'RE DOING THIS WITH YOUR *EYES CLOSED?!*
Shhhh...
... I'M *CONCENTRATING.*
THUMP
YOU *REALIZE* THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE?
APPARENTLY NOT.
BUT *THIS..?*

... THIS LOOKS IMPOSSIBLE!
THESE ARE THE SAME GUYS WE LEFT UPSTAIRS.
THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME -- HOW CAN YOU BE SURE?
IF I SAID "THEIR SCENT?"
I'D TELL YOU NOT TO BE SO SARCASTIC.
YOU KNOW, GUYS --
-- I'D FEEL A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A WEAPON OF MY OWN.
CLUTCH
?!?
¡URNPH!¿
SWEEP
PERFECT. MERCI.
YOU'VE DONE THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE?
NOT THAT I CAN REMEMBER, NO --
-- BUT IT SURE FEELS THAT WAY.
AGAIN, I CLOSE MY EYES...

... AND LET MY BODY TAKE OVER.
WHICH IS JUST AS WELL. BECAUSE AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, "IF I COULD ACTUALLY SEE ALL THE CRAZY THINGS I'M DOING --
-- I'D BE TOO SCARED TO ACTUALLY PULL IT OFF!"
Uhuhn, GUYS...
... THE MADEMOISELLE IS UNDER MY PROTECTION!
THUNK
THUNK
THUNK
MERCI.
SO, ARE THEY AFTER HER AFTER ALL..?
IT'LL HURT A LOT LESS IF YOU GIVE UP.
... OR JUST TRYING TO TAKE OUT A WITNESS?
WUK
"IGNORE THE PAIN!"
"FOCUS ON THE ACTION!"
"FIND YOUR CENTER --
" -- AND STAY THERE!"
GOOD ADVICE.
THANKS... STICK?
WHOEVER YOU ARE.

YOU CAN **RELAX** NOW, THEY'RE **ALL GONE.**
AND MAYBE YOU CAN TAKE A **MINUTE** TO TELL ME **EXACTLY** WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!
PARIS IS A **SMALL ENOUGH** CITY THAT WE'D ALL HAVE **HEARD** ABOUT A SUPER HERO LIKE YOU BEFORE NOW.
"SUPER HERO?"
LAURENT, **PLEASE.**
YOU TOOK OUT NEARLY **TWO DOZEN** NINJAS-- WITH YOUR **EYES COMPLETELY SHUT.**
NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING YOU PICK UP WATCHING **JACKIE CHAN** MOVIES.
ARE YOU **LISTENING** TO ME?
NO.
SOMETHING'S... **WRONG.**
SPLOOSH
LAURENT?!
SENSED MOVEMENT ALONG THE **SURFACE** OF THE **FOUNTAIN WATER** --
-- A **FRACTION** OF AN **INSTANT TOO LATE!**
THE LAST **COHERENT** THOUGHT IN MY HEAD --
-- JUST BEFORE I PASS OUT BENEATH A SEA OF **FISTS** AND **FEET?**
HOW CAN I DO THAT?

NEW YORK CITY.
Uh... hi.
HAS ANYONE SEEN DAREDEVIL LATELY?
I'LL TAKE YOUR INDIFFERENCE AS A COLLECTIVE "NO?"
WELL THIS COULD HAVE GONE BETTER.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO... I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM MY PARTNER MATT MURDOCK IN MORE THAN A WEEK.
IT'S NOT LIKE HIM TO BAIL OUT ON THE LAW FIRM IF HE CAN HELP IT.
I SWEAR, THERE ARE TIMES I WISH I DIDN'T KNOW MY BEST FRIEND IS THE SUPER HERO KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL.
HEY, I KNOW YOU.
YER THAT THERE FOGGY NELSON, RIGHT?
YOU USED T'BE A DISTRICT ATTORNEY HERE IN THE CITY, BEFORE YOU WENT INTO PRIVATE PRACTICE.
I'M RIGHT, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
YOU SHOULDN'TA OUGHTTA BE HERE... SIR.

MY NAME'S **MOXY CAMBRIDGE.**
A FEW YEARS AGO, YER **PARTNER,** Mr. MURDOCK -- WHEN THE TWO OF YA RAN THAT **STOREFRONT PRACTICE** -- WELL, HE **TURNED** MY LIFE **AROUND,** HE **DID.**
HE BELIEVED IN ME **SO MUCH** THAT **I** STARTED BELIEVIN' IN MYSELF.
HE EVEN MADE A FEW **CALLS,** HELPED ME GET MY **HIGH-SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY** TEST. I KIND OF LOST TOUCH WITH HIM AFTER THAT.
NOW I'M A **DOCK FOREMAN** OVER AT **D.R.C..** IT'S A **TOUGH** JOB, BUT A **HONEST** ONE.
SO WHAT I'M **SAYIN'** IS, ANY FRIEND OF Mr. MURDOCK'S A **FRIEND** OF MINE.
AMAZING.
SOMETIMES I FORGET HOW **AMAZING** A HUMAN BEING MY **BEST FRIEND** IS -- EVEN WITHOUT **"SUPER POWERS."**
THAT'S A **GREAT STORY,** MOXY.
I'LL BE SURE TO **RELATE** IT TO MATT... **WHEN** I SEE HIM AGAIN.
NOW, IF YOU HAPPEN TO HEAR **ANYTHING** ABOUT DAREDEVIL, ANYTHING **AT ALL...?**
YOU'LL BE THE **FIRST GUY** WHAT I CALL.
IT'S THE **LEAST** I CAN DO.
BUY YA A **BEER,** Mr. **NELSON?**
IT'S **FOGGY.** AND **THANKS.**
LOOKING FOR DAREDEVIL, **HUH?** Hmmm.

PARIS, AGAIN.
FFLLAGGHH!
CLAUDIA?!
I DON'T BOTHER CALLING OUT FOR HER.
SHE'S LONG GONE.
I CAN TELL.
THAT ANSWERS THE BIG QUESTION, THOUGH.
THEY WEREN'T OUT TO KILL ME.
THEIR MISTAKE.
BECAUSE THAT MEANS I FAILED IN PROTECTING CLAUDIA.
AND THE ONE THING I DO REMEMBER ABOUT ME...?
I HATE TO FAIL.

NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
HERE SHE IS, MONSIEUR --
Eh?
-- THE WOMAN WHO HAS MANAGED TO PLACE ALL OUR PLANS IN JEOPARDY.
FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, SHE HAD SOMETHING OF A DEFENDER AGAINST YOUR NINJAS.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO LAURENT...
SHHOVE
LET US NOT WASTE TIME ON IDLE THREATS, Dr. DuBOIS.
INSTEAD, USE WHAT LITTLE REMAINING BREATH YOU HAVE TO TELL ME WHAT IT IS YOU'VE INADVERTENTLY LEARNED ABOUT MY MOST RECENT ENDEAVOR.
BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I KNOW.
IRONIC, ISN'T IT?

IF NOT FOR ***MY NAME*** ABOVE THE ***MAILDROP*** --
-- I HAVE VERY LITTLE ***INDICATION*** THAT THIS IS ***MY*** APARTMENT.
IT DOESN'T ***FEEL MUCH*** LIKE HOME.
AND ***THIS?***
THIS... ***UNIFORM?***
COULD THIS HAVE ***SOMETHING*** TO DO WITH ***UNLOCKING*** THE ***SECRETS*** OF MY ***PAST?***
IT'S ***ALMOST*** LIKE I CAN ***TASTE*** MY ***LIFE*** ON THE ***TIP*** OF MY TONGUE.
RIGHT THERE...
...BUT ***NOT.***
MAYBE ***THIS*** WILL HELP.

NO. THIS ISN'T EXACTLY RIGHT.
I'M NOT EVEN TALKING ABOUT THE COSTUME -- AS IF IT IS OFF SOMEHOW.
NO. IT'S THE REFLECTION.
IS THAT WHAT'S DIFFERENT? IS THAT WHAT'S CONFUSING ME?
THAT I CAN SEE?
THAT I CAN SEE?
WHY IS THAT STRANGE?
WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ABLE TO SEE?
I DIDN'T HEAR IT OVER THE SOUND OF MY OWN VOICE...
...BUT I CAN SENSE... SOMEONE.
COMPANY.
WELL STEP RIGHT UP, MON AMI.
AFTER TONIGHT, I'M READY FOR ANYTHING.

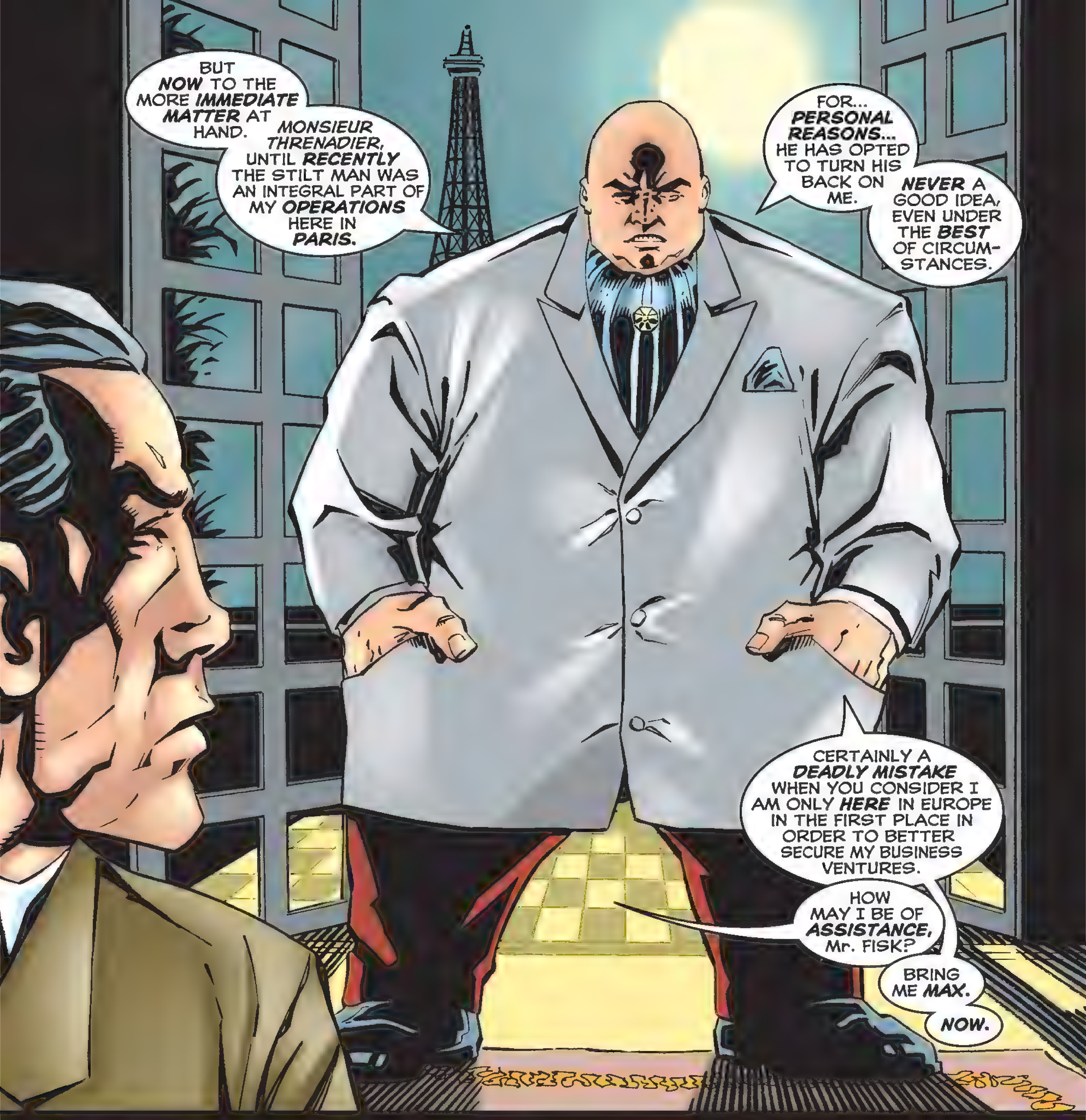
SKKRASSH
OKAY. ALMOST ANYTHING.
SOME KIND OF... BATTERING RAM?!
BUT WHO COULD BE HOLDING IT UP THIS HIGH...
...LET ALONE RAMMING IT WITH SUCH EXPLOSIVE FORCE?!
BOOM
BRAM
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SAVE THE QUESTIONS UNTIL WHEN OR IF I SURVIVE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I USED TO DO THIS SORT OF THING FOR A LIVING!

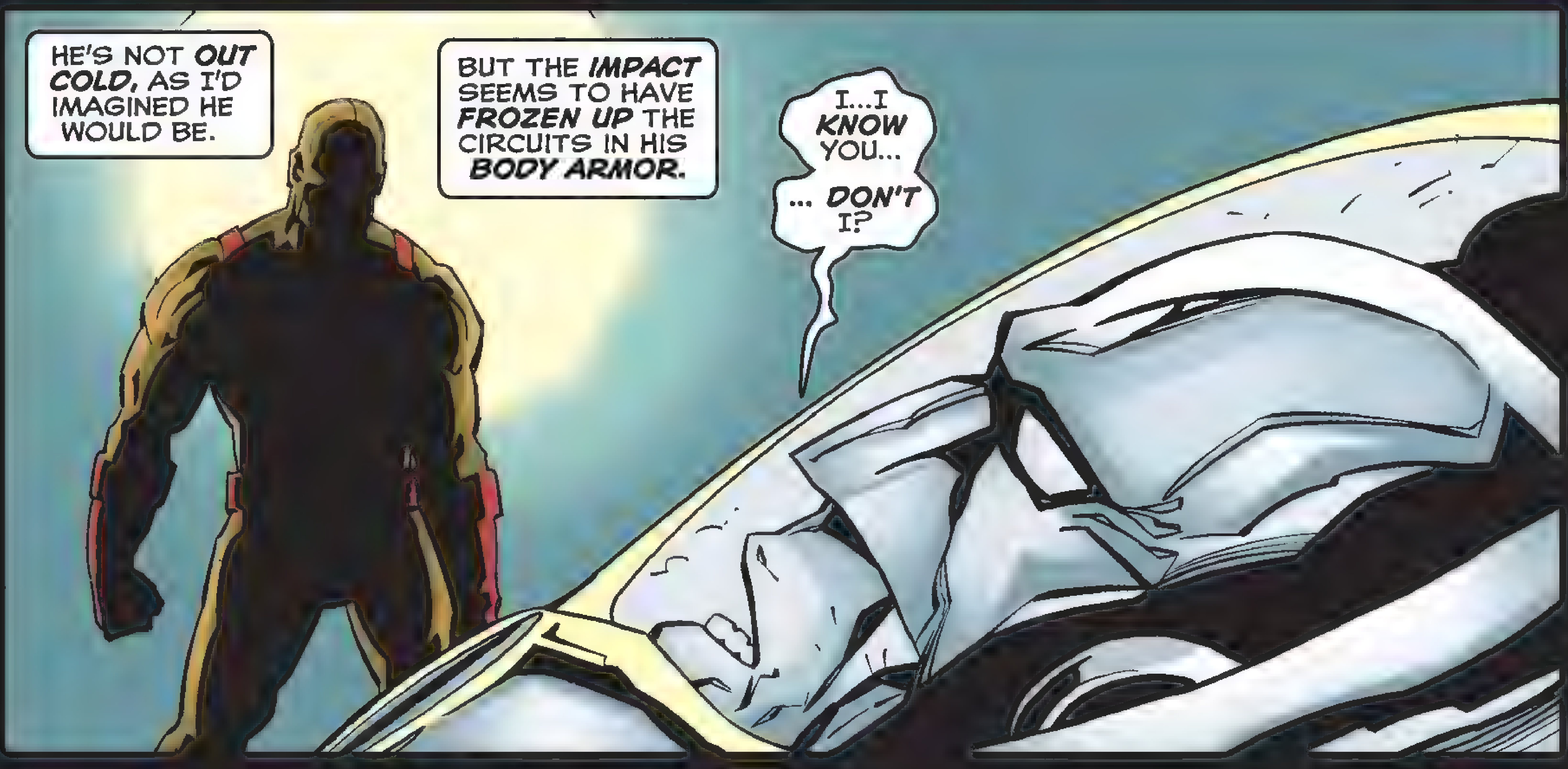
URNF!
SPBLAMM
FORTUNATELY, THIS BUILDING IS *OLD* -- *PRACTICALLY CONDEMNED*...
...OR I'D HAVE A FEW BROKEN RIBS AND A *LOT MORE* TO WORRY ABOUT THAN BEING HURLED THROUGH THE ROOF AND INTO A *FREE FALL.*
WHICH, FOR *SOME* REASON, ISN'T *ALL THAT* WORRISOME.
SPTANG
WITHOUT *THINKING,* I TRIGGER THE CABLE DEVICE ATTACHED TO MY... *COSTUME?*
AS IF THIS WERE AS *NATURAL* AS WALKING DOWN A STREET --
-- I'M BACK *IN CONTROL* OF THE SITUATION.
SO, *MON AMI* YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE TO MY APARTMENT?
AFTER YOU'VE GOTTEN SOME *AIR* BACK INTO YOUR LUNGS, *THAT IS.*
ULPH!
WHAM
YOU KNOW *EXACTLY* WHY I'M HERE!
?!

BACK IN THE UNITED STATES...
...ON A NEW YORK STREET CORNER WHICH HOUSES A NONDESCRIPT BARBER SHOP...
BARBER SHOP
...WHICH SERVES AS THE CLANDESTINE ENTRANCE TO A S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS SOME TWELVE STORIES BELOW THE STREET...
Strategic Hazard Intervention Espionage Logistics Directorate --Tim
INCREDIBLE. I'VE TAKEN AGENT HARLAN'S COMPUTER APART AND PUT IT BACK TOGETHER NEARLY A DOZEN TIMES SINCE YESTERDAY'S UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT --
Last issue --Tim
-- AND, AS IS S.H.I.E.L.D. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE, I'VE MANAGED TO DECRYPT EVERY FILE BUT ONE.
OPERATION: "FLYING BLIND."
WHAT CAN IT MEAN?
OPERATION: "FLYING BLIND"
WHAT COULD HARLAN HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THAT HE DIDN'T WANT ANY OF HIS SUPERIORS OR FELLOW AGENTS KNOWING ABOUT?
AND WHY DO I THINK IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER LAST WEEK?
COME ON, COMPUTER, GIVE TIA HERE A CLUE AS TO --
AGENT SENYAKA -- COME IN.
SENYAKA HERE.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE KEPT APPRISED ABOUT ANY INFORMATION REGARDING DAREDEVIL...?

APPARENTLY, AN *INTELLECTUALLY OPEN* AND *FREE EXCHANGE* OF IDEAS IS *NOT* ON THE DOCKET TODAY.
WHAM
WHAM
NOT *UNTIL*, AT LEAST, *"STILT MAN"* HERE HAS CALMED DOWN ENOUGH TO TELL ME *WHAT* THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
WHICH DOESN'T SEEM *VERY LIKELY* --
WHAM
WHAM
-- UNLESS *I'M* THE ONE WHO DOES THE CALMING.
HOPE THIS WORKS...

THE PLAN IS, GET HIM SO ANGRY --
-- THAT HE DOESN'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE HE'S GOING.
PLEASE, THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO RUN! I ONLY WANT TO --
WHA --?!
A LONG SHOT YES...
KLANGGGG
... ONE THAT PAYS OFF!
INTRIGUING. WHILE NEVER BEING WHAT I WOULD CONSIDER THE MOST DEADLY OF ALLIES --
-- STILT MAN CERTAINLY POSSESSES A PEDIGREE THAT INCLUDES DAREDEVIL, SPIDER-MAN, AND EVEN THE RELATIVELY SHORT-LIVED CHAMPIONS.
ANY ADVERSARY CAPABLE OF TAKING HIM DOWN SO QUICKLY, IS CERTAINLY SOMEONE WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON.
This L.A. based team of heroes was composed of ANGEL, ICEMAN, HERCULES, BLACK WIDOW AND GHOST RIDER! -- Time Capsule Tim!


BUT *NOW* TO THE MORE *IMMEDIATE MATTER* AT HAND.
MONSIEUR THRENADIER, UNTIL *RECENTLY* THE STILT MAN WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF MY *OPERATIONS* HERE IN *PARIS*.
FOR... *PERSONAL REASONS*... HE HAS OPTED TO TURN HIS BACK ON ME.
NEVER A GOOD IDEA, EVEN UNDER THE *BEST* OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
CERTAINLY A *DEADLY MISTAKE* WHEN YOU CONSIDER I AM ONLY *HERE* IN EUROPE IN THE FIRST PLACE IN ORDER TO BETTER SECURE MY BUSINESS VENTURES.
HOW MAY I BE OF *ASSISTANCE*, Mr. FISK?
BRING ME *MAX*.
NOW.


HE'S NOT *OUT COLD*, AS I'D IMAGINED HE WOULD BE.
BUT THE *IMPACT* SEEMS TO HAVE *FROZEN UP* THE CIRCUITS IN HIS *BODY ARMOR*.
I...I *KNOW* YOU...
... *DON'T* I?

IF YOU DO, MON AMI --
-- YOU HAVE ONE OVER ME, I'M AFRAID.
YOU GET TO PARIS MUCH?
FIRST TIME, ACTUALLY.
FOR A MOMENT...IN THE MOON-LIGHT...
...YOU ALMOST LOOKED... FAMILIAR.
LOOK, Um...STILT MAN? YOU NEED TO REST.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY IN A LITTLE WHILE.
ON THE CONTRARY. I'M GOING TO BE DEAD ANY MOMENT.
SEE, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING OF A SECOND STORY GUY -- SOMEONE WHO WAS IN BUSINESS FOR MYSELF.
I MADE MY OWN RULES... WAS MY OWN BOSS.
ONE THING I'D NEVER DO WAS MURDER A PERSON...
...JUST FOR BEING IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.
THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS TO DO...
...TO A DOCTOR NAMED CLAUDIA DuBOIS.
?!
CAN YOU DO IT FROM HERE, MAX?
WITH MY EYES CLOSED.
LEAVE THEM OPEN.
AND THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL STILT MAN.
BUT DON'T BE NICE, EITHER.

WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHO IS TRYING TO KILL OUR MUTUAL FRIEND?
WHAT HAS HE DONE WITH HER?
HIS NAME IS WILSON FI--
?!
THOUSANDS OF VOLTS OF ELECTRICITY --
AUGHN!
-- COURSING THROUGH HIS BRAIN?!
IT'S AS IF EVERY SYNAPSE IN HIS BODY WAS TRIGGERED AT THE SAME MOMENT!
BUT HOW?!
HE'LL LIVE, THAT MUCH I'M SURE OF.
BUT IN HIS CURRENT STATE HE'S IN NO POSITION TO TALK, LET ALONE HELP ME FIND CLAUDIA.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO THIS "WILSON F." IS --
-- BUT SO HELP ME, HE HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.
AND ONE THING'S FOR SURE...
...HE'S JUST MADE AN ENEMY FOR LIFE.
NEED WE SAY IT? TO BE CONTINUED, TRUE BELIEVER!

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
AUG #378
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FLYING BLIND PART 3
LOBDELL
MORGAN
HANNA
WWW.MARVEL.COM
UNDER THE GUN!

Mr. NELSON, PLEASE... FOCUS ON WHAT I'M SAYING.
BE RIGHT WITH YOU, LADY.
JUST NEED A BREATH OF FRESH AIR.
NYU

CHEEZE AND CRACKERS?!
NYU
>SIGH<
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
YANK
WHICH "THIS" IS THAT?
THE "THIS" THAT FINDS ME USING S.H.I.E.L.D.'S¹ MOST EXPENSIVE TOY -- THE HELICARRIER -- TO TRANSPORT MYSELF AND MY ENTIRE EXTRACTION UNIT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN... ...IN AN EFFORT TO PREVENT AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER ENDURED!
AND BECAUSE I'M A SECRET AGENT AND NOT A BABY SITTER --
-- I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D CONCENTRATE ON THE MATTER AT HAND INSTEAD OF TRYING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED WHILE WE MIGHT STILL HAVE SOME ACTUAL USE FOR YOU, Mr. NELSON!
Oh. THAT "THIS."
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR Stan Lee PRESENTS
FLYING BLIND
3 OF 4
SCOTT LOBDELL WRITER
TOM MORGAN PENCILER
SCOTT HANNA INKER
CHRISTIE SCHEELE COLORS
RS & COMICRAFT'S LIZ AGRAPHIOTIS LETTERS
TIM TUOHY EDITOR
BOB HARRAS CHIEF
¹ STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE -- Tim.

[redacted]

NOW YOU LISTEN TO ME, AGENT SENYAKA! FOGGY NELSON DOESN'T NEED TO BE BABYSAT!
LONG BEFORE I WAS BEING KIDNAPPED OUT OF MY OWN BED AND SPIRITED AWAY IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT --
-- I WAS NEW YORK'S DISTRICT ATTORNEY!
I REALIZE THAT, SIR. AND AS AN OFFICER OF THE COURT, I'M ASKING FOR YOUR HELP DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.
WHAT DOES WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE DOING HAVE TO DO WITH ME?
PROBABLY VERY LITTLE. BUT MY FIELD AGENT IN HELL'S KITCHEN INFORMED ME YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR THE PERSON WHO STANDS AT THE VERY HEART OF OUR OPERATION.
See LAST ISSUE
A PERSON WE ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO LOCATE!
THE COSTUMED ADVENTURER KNOWN AS DAREDEVIL?
OF COURSE HE'S ALSO MY BEST FRIEND AND LAW PARTNER MATTHEW MURDOCK --
-- BUT I KNOW HOW MATT IS ABOUT HIS SECRET IDENTITY, SO THERE'S NO REASON TO BRING IT UP TO HER.
HOW IS HE INVOLVED IN THIS?
BECAUSE HE MAY BE THE ONLY LIVING BEING BETWEEN US... AND THE END OF CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT.
AND WE HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT...

"... THAT HE'S IN BIG TROUBLE!"
I'VE HAD BETTER NIGHTS THAN THIS.
I'M ASSUMING ANYWAY.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BEING AMNESIAC: ASSUMING BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE.
STEP AWAY FROM THE BODY, MONSIEUR.
THE ONLY THING I DO REMEMBER IS BATTLING THE STILT-MAN HERE --
-- WHO WAS TRYING TO WARN ME ABOUT SOMETHING BEFORE HE...
... PASSED OUT.
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, OFFICER.
See LAST ISSUE -Tim
TELL THAT TO THE CORPSE AT YOUR FEET!
HE'S NOT ACTUALLY DEAD.
YES, AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC BIO-PULSE HAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED HIS BRAIN CAPACITY AND BODILY FUNCTIONS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY --
-- HOW DO I EXPLAIN I "SENSED" ALL THIS, WITHOUT APPEARING TO BE A COMPLETE LUNATIC?
FOR THAT MATTER, MAYBE I AM A COMPLETE LUNATIC.

BUT NO, CLAUDIA IS COUNTING ON ME.
THROW DOWN YOUR WEAPON -- NOW.
MY... WEAPON?
YES SIR, OFFICER.
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
HAVE TO AIM THIS PERFECTLY...
KLANG
THERE!
JUST AS I PLANNED, I TRIGGERED THIS MAN'S HYDRAULIC STILTS!
FWOOM
FWOOM
THE RESULTING CONFUSION SHOULD ALLOW ME TO ESCAPE --
-- WHILE KEEPING THE LOCAL GENDARMES FROM GIVING CHASE.
ADIEU, MES AMIS!
WHICH MEANS NOW I CAN ACT ON THE INFORMATION STILT-MAN GAVE ME --
-- I CAN TRACK DOWN Dr. CLAUDIA DUBOIS --
-- WITHOUT ANY UNDUE INTERFERENCE!
I HOPE.

LATER...
I CAN HEAR THEIR VOICES IN THE HALL OUTSIDE...
"WHY ARE WE SO UNDERSTAFFED THIS EVENING?"
"Dr. DUBOIS DIDN'T SHOW. IT'S NOT LIKE HER TO BAG OUT WITHOUT AT LEAST CALLING IN."
OUT
IF ONLY THEY KNEW, Huh?
IF ONLY I KNEW, FOR THAT MATTER.
ALL I CAN GO BY ARE CLUES. YESTERDAY, WHEN SHE WAS DISCHARGING ME FROM THE EMERGENCY ROOM --
-- SHE SAID, "THIS MUST BE MY WEEK FOR ODD ONES..."
EARLIER THIS EVENING, STILT-MAN REVEALED CLAUDIA HAD SEEN SOMETHING SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO -- SOMETHING THAT PUT HER LIFE AT RISK.
SO NOW HERE I AM, GOING THROUGH THE HOSPITAL'S INCIDENT REPORTS.
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY ABILITY -- DON'T ASK ME HOW, PLEASE -- OF "READING" BY FEELING THE IMPRINT OF INK ON PAPER...
... I'M REASONABLY CERTAIN NO ONE WILL DISTURB ME HERE IN THE DARK.
I'M WRONG.
APPARENTLY -- I WAS CONCENTRATING SO HARD ON WHAT I WAS DOING...
... I FAILED TO NOTICE THE SECOND HEARTBEAT IN THE ROOM.
...
YOU REALIZE YOU'RE NOT ALONE?
YOU'RE GOOD.

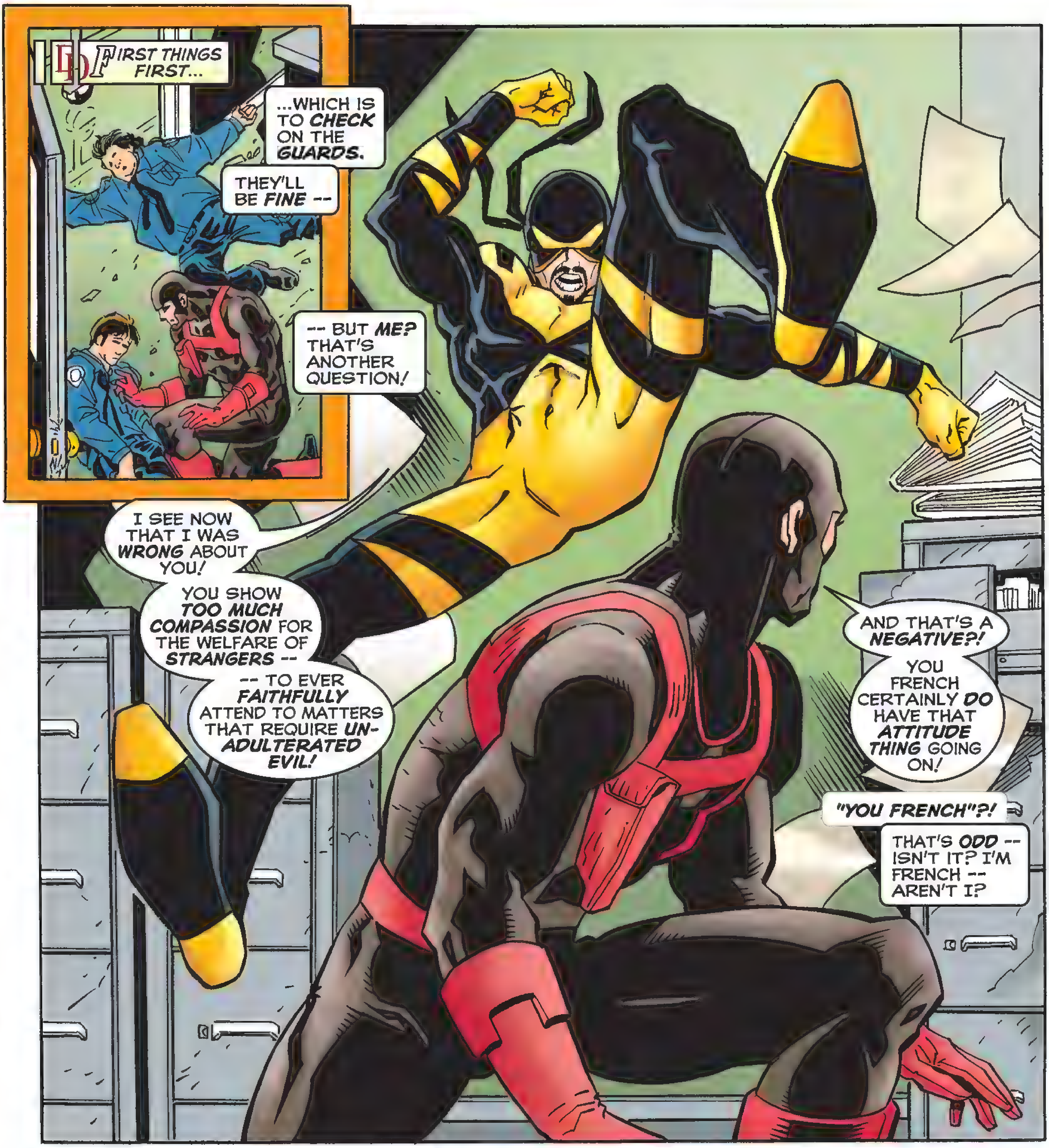
YOU DON'T KNOW THE *HALF* OF IT, *MON AMI*.
OF COURSE, *NEITHER* DO I, BUT THERE'S *NO REASON* HE *NEEDS* TO KNOW THAT.
STILT-MAN IS AN *IDIOT, MON AMI*.
WORSE *YET*, HE WAS AN *AMERICAN*.
NONE OF WHICH IS YOUR CONCERN ANY MORE...
... FOR ALL *YOU* NEED TO DO -- IS *DIE!*
NOW, IT DOESN'T TAKE A *GENIUS* TO REALIZE YOU MUST HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH *Dr. DUBOIS'S* KIDNAPPING.
OR IS IT JUST A *COINCIDENCE* THAT YOU AND STILT-MAN SHOP AT THE SAME *"VILLAINS R US"* RETAIL OUTLET?
HIS INTENT WAS TO *BLIND* ME WITH THE *SUDDEN LIGHT*.
THEN PRESS HIS ADVANTAGE WHILE I TRY TO *ADJUST*.
BUT HE *COULDN'T* HAVE KNOWN ABOUT MY... WHAT DID I CALL IT... *"RADAR SENSE"*?
I *INSTANTLY* FILTER OUT MY EYESIGHT -- *DIALING* IT ALL THE WAY DOWN LIKE A *LIGHT DIMMER*.
WOULD IT BE *TOO MUCH* TO ASK YOUR NAME -- WHILE YOU'RE STILL *CONSCIOUS* ENOUGH TO GIVE IT TO ME?
I AM CALLED *LE CONCIERGE* -- THE MOST DEADLY *ASSASSIN* IN ALL OF *PARIS!*
YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE YOUR *WORD* FOR IT?

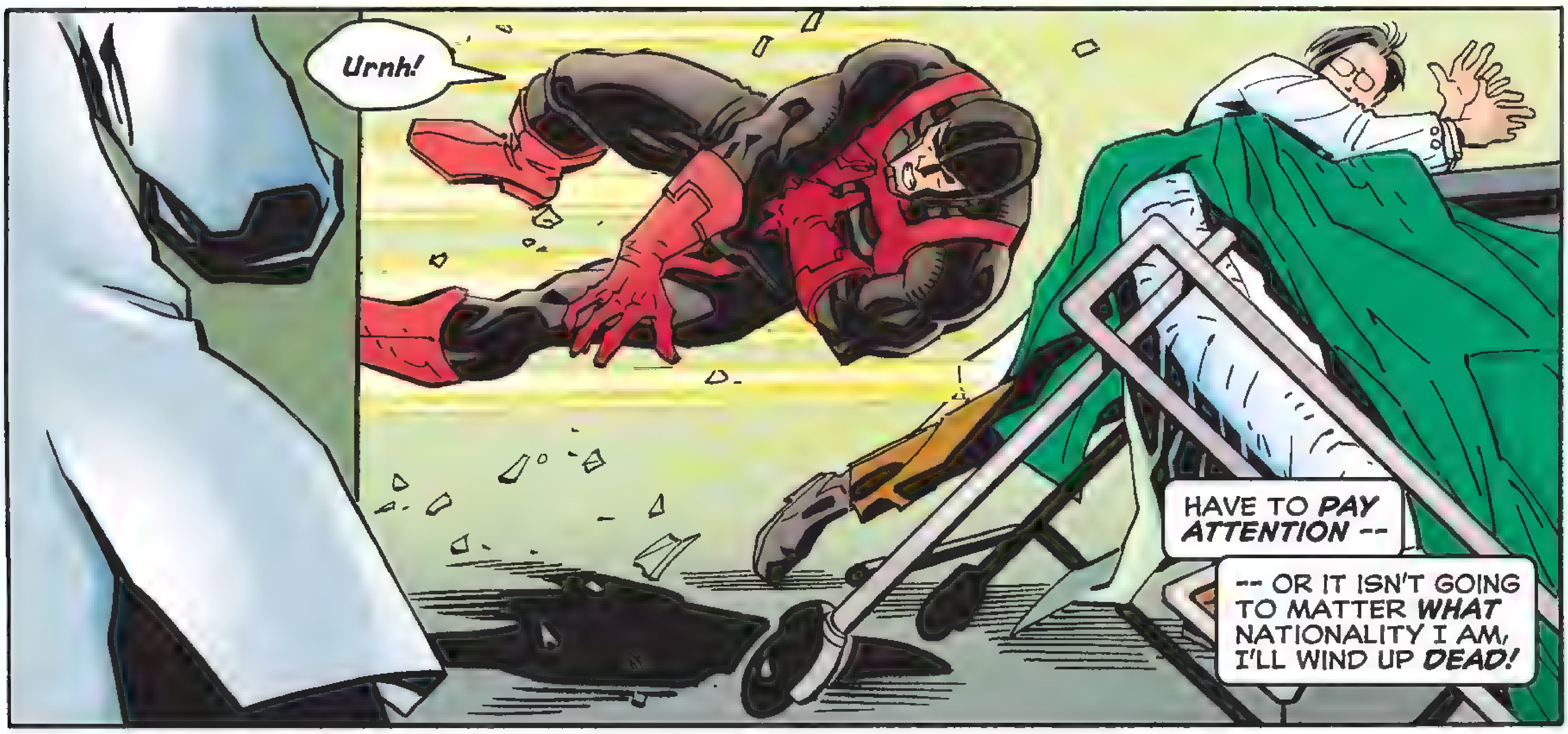
MEANWHILE...
DOCTOR? YOU CAN STOP PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP NOW.
HMP?
THAT'S GOOD.
WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS, YOU AND I.
MY NAME IS WILSON FISK. I'M AN IMPORTER.
THERE ARE THOSE PEOPLE WHO WOULD TELL YOU THAT I AM ALSO KNOWN AS THE INTERNATIONAL KINGPIN OF CRIME.
THEY WOULD ARGUE IN COURTS OF LAW THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THAT I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR CRIMES UNIMAGINABLE -- ALL COMMITTED IN MY NAME FOR OPTIMUM FINANCIAL GAIN ON MY BEHALF.
BUT LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY.
INSTEAD, LET US CONCENTRATE ON YOU AND ME.
YOU SEE, YOU HAVE INFORMATION THAT I NEED.
COME... SHARE.

OBESITY WILL KILL YOU!
IF YOU LET ME GET BACK TO MY LIFE, I'M SURE I CAN GET YOU A SECOND OPINION!
"OBESITY WILL KILL YOU"?!
HAW!
HAHA HAHAHA HA
THIS LADY'S A RIOT!
HA HA
YOU HAVE TO LOVE THE FRENCH, Eh?
"I CAN GET YOU A SECOND OPINION"?!
A CLASSIC, I TELL YOU!
HAHA
BAM
GENTLEMEN, COME FIND ME WHEN HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS.

YOU'D WAKE UP WITH A LOT LESS BRUISES IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME WHERE TO FIND HER!
RATHER THAN SPEND YOUR ENERGY TRYING TO BE FUNNY --
TRYING? OUCH.
-- WHY DON'T YOU CONSIDER ALL YOUR OPTIONS: SUCH AS JOINING US!
"US"?
Uh-Oh.
MY RADAR SENSE IS PICKING UP TWO BODIES --
-- SECURITY GUARDS --
-- ABOUT TO INVESTIGATE THE NOISE FROM OUR BATTLE.
WE ARE KNOWN AS THE EMISSARIES OF EVIL.
WOW. THAT'S SUBTLE.
WE FEEL IT GETS THE POINT ACROSS.
NOW, WITH STILT-MAN OUT OF THE PICTURE, WE ARE DOWN A MEMBER...
...SO YOU'RE OFFERING ME HIS SPOT IN YOUR GROUP?
I'M FLATTERED.
REALLY.
BUT I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO SAY "NO" --
-- YOU KNOW, WHAT WITH HAVING TO LIVE WITH MYSELF AND ALL.
THEN YOU WILL NOT BE LIVING AT ALL!

HAVE TO TIME THIS PERFECTLY.
HOLD IT DOWN IN HERE, YOU TWO!
YOU ARE MAKING ENOUGH NOISE TO WAKE THE PATIENTS DOWN IN THE MORGUE!
WHAM
'COURSE, IN RETROSPECT -- WE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE USED OUR PASS-KEY. BUT STILL --
THE SOONER I END THIS...
...THE LESS LIKELY ANYONE IS TO GET HURT.
UHRN!
RMMPH!
YOU -- YOU PLANNED THIS, DIDN'T YOU?!
"PLANNED" IS TOO STRONG.
WAK
-EMRP!-
BUT WHY QUIBBLE OVER SEMANTICS?


FIRST THINGS FIRST...
...WHICH IS TO CHECK ON THE GUARDS.
THEY'LL BE FINE --
-- BUT ME? THAT'S ANOTHER QUESTION!
I SEE NOW THAT I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU!
YOU SHOW TOO MUCH COMPASSION FOR THE WELFARE OF STRANGERS --
-- TO EVER FAITHFULLY ATTEND TO MATTERS THAT REQUIRE UNADULTERATED EVIL!
AND THAT'S A NEGATIVE?!
YOU FRENCH CERTAINLY DO HAVE THAT ATTITUDE THING GOING ON!
"YOU FRENCH"?!
THAT'S ODD -- ISN'T IT? I'M FRENCH -- AREN'T I?


Urnh!
HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION --
-- OR IT ISN'T GOING TO MATTER WHAT NATIONALITY I AM, I'LL WIND UP DEAD!

I THOUGHT ROLLING WITH THAT KICK WOULD BUY ME SOME BREATHING ROOM!
UNFORTUNATELY, I HADN'T COUNTED ON THE CHAOS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE PANICKING CROWDS.
ALL THE SHOUTING AND SCREAMING IS A BIT OVERWHELMING ON MY HEIGHTENED SENSES.
OKAY...A LOT OVERWHELMING!
WHEN I WAS FIRST APPROACHED ABOUT THIS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY --
KIK
-- I WAS SKEPTICAL!
TAKING OVER THE WORLD FROM EUROPE? THIS IS SIMPLY NOT DONE!
BUT THEN IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ME THAT THIS CONTINENT HAS THE LOWEST SUPER HERO PER CAPITA RATIO.
A STATISTIC YOU SEEM DETERMINED TO CHANGE!
YOU ARE THE THIRD PERSON TO REFER TO ME AS A SUPER HERO!
KNRUNCH
WHY -URMP- IS THAT?!

PLEASE, DO NOT PLAY ME FOR AN IDIOT.
I HAVE STUDIED ENOUGH AMERICAN HEROES THAT IT IS VERY CLEAR, AT LAST --
-- THAT YOU ARE ONE OF MY EMPLOYER'S GREATEST ENEMIES.
AS CLEAR AS IT IS THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DIE ON THE END OF MY BLADE!
SO HUMOR ME BEFORE I GO.
WHO AM I?
I DO NOT KNOW THE LITERAL TRANSLATION OF YOUR CODE NAME --
-- BUT I DO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE OFTEN BEEN REFERRED TO AS "THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR."
THAT'S A LONG NAME.
SO TELL ME, CONCIERGE --
LOOK INTO MY EYES AND TELL ME... HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE I RECEIVED A NAME LIKE THAT?
C'MON, HESITATE...
...JUST A SECOND MORE...
PERFECT!
FWING
STUMPED?

FOR A MOMENT, OUI!
SPLING
NO!
I SENSE ANOTHER BLADE BENEATH HIS COSTUME!
PLEASE, LET ME GO!
YOU PEOPLE ARE CRAZY!
NOT CRAZY, JUST DETERMINED.
BUT... IT ISN'T MY PLACE TO RISK THIS WOMAN'S LIFE JUST TO SAVE CLAUDIA'S!
LET HER GO, CONCIERGE -- THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
AGREED.
COME OVER HERE AND THROW YOURSELF ON THE END OF MY BLADE --
-- AND I'D BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO LET HER GO!
HOW?
HOW DID I MANAGE TO GET MYSELF INTO THIS SITUATION?

IN S.H.I.E.L.D....
IMPRESSIVE HOLOGRAM.
SHHH.
EARLIER THIS WEEK, A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT TURNED UP DEAD IN PARIS.
MURDERED.
NOT THAT THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN OCCASIONALLY, BUT THIS PARTICULAR AGENT WAS WHAT WAS KNOWN AS A "VOLUME AGENT."
THAT IS, HE HAD A COMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS WORKING UNDERCOVER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
SURPRISINGLY, THE AUTOPSY REVEALED HIS MIND HAD BEEN... REWIRED.
REWIRED? MEANING HE HAD A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SET OF MEMORIES -- A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING?
THAT IS DISTURBING.
NOT FOR THE REASON YOU'D IMAGINE...YOU SEE, ERR (ELECTRO-ENCEPHALOGRAPHIC REWIRING) IS SOMETHING S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS BEEN DOING FOR THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST DECADE.
IN A WORLD WITH SO MANY ANTAGONISTIC PSIONS, IT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY FOR UNDERCOVER WORK.
UNDERCOVER...?
BUT IF WHOEVER STOLE THAT INFORMATION NOW KNOWS ALL YOUR UNDERCOVER S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS...?
NYU

THEN THE TRICK TO GETTING THAT INFORMATION BACK, IS TO SEND IN SOMEONE WHO HAD NO CONNECTION TO S.H.I.E.L.D. --
BUT WHO COULD BE TRUSTED TO GET THE JOB DONE WHETHER HE KNEW WHAT THE JOB WAS OR NOT?
SOMEONE LIKE... DAREDEVIL?
NORMALLY, WE WOULD NEVER HAVE SANCTIONED SUCH A RISKY OPERATION INVOLVING A PRIVATE CITIZEN.
BUT THE AGENT WHO WAS MURDERED WAS THE BROTHER OF ANOTHER AGENT.
AGENT HARLAN TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO SEND A REWIRED DAREDEVIL IN.
BUT HE WAS KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT YESTERDAY MORNING.
YOU'RE SAYING, THEN, THAT DAREDEVIL IS DEEP UNDERCOVER --
-- WITH NO BACK-UP --
-- NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IT IS HE HAS TO ACCOMPLISH --
-- AND NO MEMORY THAT HE'S EVEN DAREDEVIL?!
YES.
IT GETS WORSE.
THIS MAN, WHO YOU ARE NO DOUBT FAMILIAR WITH --
-- IS GOING TO BID ON S.H.I.E.L.D.'S LIST OF UNDERCOVER OPERATIVES TONIGHT...
... AND THE ONE MAN WHO CAN STOP HIM -- DAREDEVIL -- MAY ALREADY BE DEAD.

KINGPIN'S PARIS APARTMENT...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON HIS OVERSIZED FACE!
I'LL TEACH HIM TO TRY TO SMACK SYNAPSE AROUND!
I'LL REWIRE HIS CELLULITE-THICKENED SKULL SO HE CAN'T REMEMBER HOW TO TIE HIS SHOES -- WHICH I DOUBT HE CAN EVEN SEE!
MAYBE I'LL GIVE HIM THE MEMORIES OF A PARISIAN DANCING GIRL!
WHAM
WHA --?!
THE REASON YOU'RE ALIVE, MAX -- THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE ALIVE -- IS BECAUSE I HAVE USE FOR YOUR BIO-ELECTRIC POWERS.
CHALLENGE ME AGAIN, AND YOU WILL LEARN THAT ALL THE ELECTRICITY IN THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE WILL OF A DETERMINED MAN.
DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR..?
Ummm... PERFECTLY.
SO, WHEN DO WE GET STARTED?

MES AMIS, LIGHTEN UP -- OUI? EVERYTHING IS GRAND NOW: I HAVE CAPTURED THE IDIOT WHO HAD SOUGHT TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR PLANS, MONSIEUR.
I AM ASSUMING YOU HAVE DISPOSED OF THE DOCTOR, THE WOMAN WHO LEARNED MORE THAN SHE SHOULD HAVE?
UNFORTUNATELY, CONCIERGE, THAT HAS NOT HAPPENED. YET.
KLUNK
PHEW
THAT'S THE BEST NEWS I'VE HEARD ALL EVENING.
LET US NOT FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES.
I DON'T FIGHT.
I ELABORATE.
I HEAR YOU, BOSS.
NOW...
... LET US ATTEND TO THE MATTER AT HAND. IN THE NEXT ROOM ARE SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN AND WOMEN OF POWER IN ALL OF EUROPE --
-- EAGER TO PAY ANY PRICE FOR THE INFORMATION WE POSSESS.
LET US GO, GENTLEMEN, AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOR.

IT ISN'T **SUPPOSED** TO HAPPEN THIS WAY.
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE READ ENOUGH SPY NOVELS OVER THE YEARS TO KNOW --
-- THAT THIS IS THE **SCENE** WHERE THE HERO REVEALS HE'S BEEN **FAKING.**
HE ONLY **PRETENDED** HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS IN ORDER TO BE **BROUGHT** INTO HIS **ENEMY'S LAIR.**
ONCE THERE, HE **SPRINGS** TO HIS FEET --
-- **FREES** THE GIRL --
-- AND **SAVES** THE **WORLD!**
IF THE **LAST TWENTY-FOUR** HOURS HAVE TAUGHT ME **ANYTHING,** THOUGH...
...IT'S THAT **NOTHING** IS EVER WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE AT FIRST GLANCE.

THE HELICARRIER...
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO DO BUT SIT AND WAIT UNTIL WE FIND MATT.
EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T KNOW HIS REAL IDENTITY, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS FIGURED THAT IF HE AND I WERE CLOSE ENOUGH THAT I'D BE SEARCHING FOR HIM...
...THEN SEEING ME MIGHT HELP TO JOG HIS MEMORY.
THOUGH "SEEING ME" IS NOT SOMETHING MATT IS...
...ABLE TO...
...DO?
WHA --?!
PHYSICAL
EYESIGHT
20/20
ACCORDING TO THIS PHYSICAL HARLAN CONDUCTED ON DAREDEVIL AFTER HE WAS REWIRED...
...IT SAYS HIS EYESIGHT IS... 20/20?
IS THAT POSSIBLE?
COULD IT BE THAT WHEN THEY MESSED WITH MATT'S HEAD --
-- THEY DID SOMETHING THAT ALLOWED HIM... TO SEE?
NYU
BUT...BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER?
WILL HE HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE -- HE CAN HAVE AN ALL NEW LIFE, AND SEE AGAIN...
...OR HE CAN RETURN TO BEING MATT MURDOCK, AND BEING BLIND?
TO BE CONCLUDED...

MARVEL COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR
SEPT #379
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FLYING BLIND PART 4
Cully
LOBDELL
HAMNER
MARTIN
WWW.MARVEL.COM
FACE TO FACE WITH THE TRUTH!

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Stan Lee PRESENTS
FLYING
SCOTT LOBDELL WRITER
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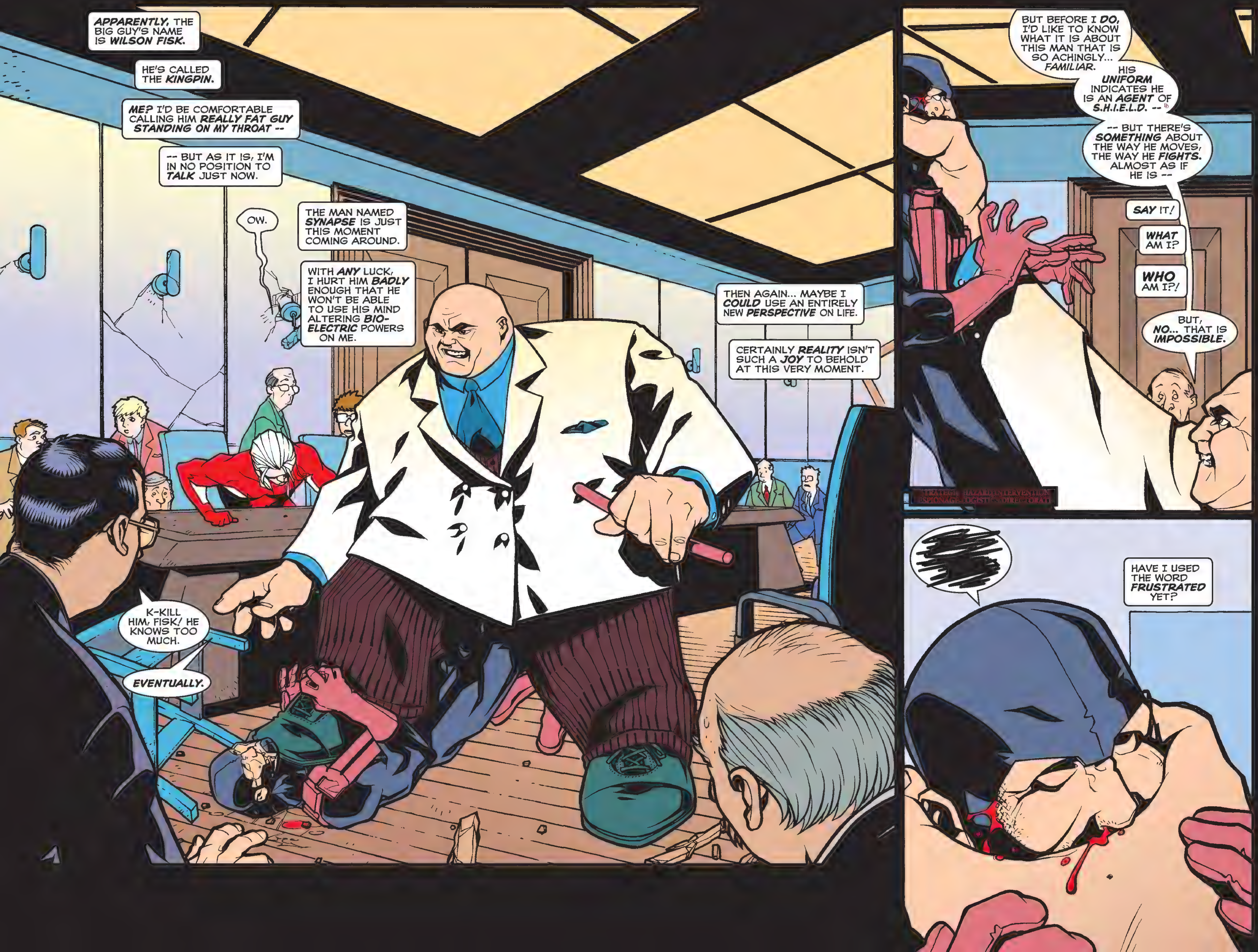
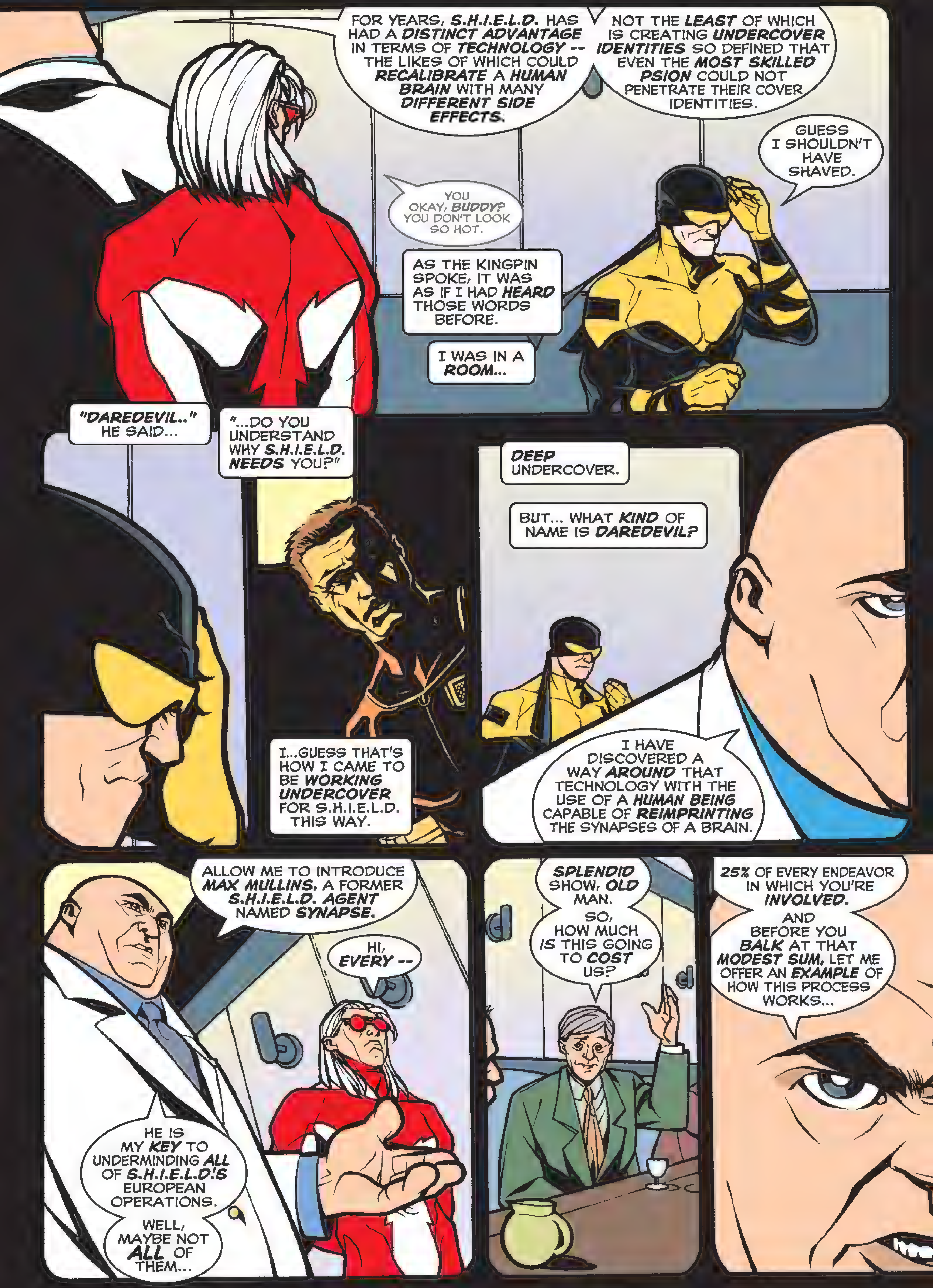
4 OF 4


APPARENTLY, THE BIG GUY'S NAME IS WILSON FISK.
HE'S CALLED THE KINGPIN.
ME? I'D BE COMFORTABLE CALLING HIM REALLY FAT GUY STANDING ON MY THROAT --
-- BUT AS IT IS, I'M IN NO POSITION TO TALK JUST NOW.
OW.
THE MAN NAMED SYNAPSE IS JUST THIS MOMENT COMING AROUND.
WITH ANY LUCK, I HURT HIM BADLY ENOUGH THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE HIS MIND ALTERING BIO-ELECTRIC POWERS ON ME.
THEN AGAIN... MAYBE I COULD USE AN ENTIRELY NEW PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE.
CERTAINLY REALITY ISN'T SUCH A JOY TO BEHOLD AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
K-KILL HIM, FISK! HE KNOWS TOO MUCH.
EVENTUALLY.
BUT BEFORE I DO, I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT THIS MAN THAT IS SO ACHINGLY... FAMILIAR.
HIS UNIFORM INDICATES HE IS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. --
-- BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY HE MOVES, THE WAY HE FIGHTS. ALMOST AS IF HE IS --
SAY IT!
WHAT AM I?
WHO AM I?!
BUT, NO... THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE
HAVE I USED THE WORD FRUSTRATED YET?

AND FOR ABOUT THE **HUNDRED** THOUSANDTH TIME IN THE LAST TWO DAYS --
-- I ASK MYSELF **HOW** IT IS THAT I GOT **INVOLVED** IN ALL OF THIS?
I REMEMBER **WAKING** UP IN A HOSPITAL BED, BELIEVING I WAS AN **ARTIST** NAMED **LAURENT LEVASSEUR.**
LEAVING THE HOSPITAL, I DISCOVERED **ALL** OF MY **SENSES** WERE **HEIGHTENED** TO AN ALMOST **SUPER-HUMAN** LEVEL.
AND THAT'S NOT EVEN COUNTING AN EERIE **"RADAR SENSE"** THAT LETS ME **SEE** IN THE **DARK.**
THINGS GOT **WEIRDER** WHEN I RETURNED HOME TO DISCOVER **RED BATTLE GEAR** IN MY CLOSET.
I SOUGHT OUT THE **E.R. DOCTOR,** CLAUDIA DUBOIS --
-- BUT SHE HAD HER **OWN** PROBLEMS --
-- AS SHE WAS BEING **KIDNAPPED** BY AN **ARMY OF NINJAS** AT THE TIME.
I **EVENTUALLY** WOUND UP MIXING IT UP WITH AN ASSASSIN NAMED **LE CONCIERGE** --
-- WHO HAD HIS **OWN** REASONS FOR WANTING ME **NOT** TO FIND CLAUDIA.
I WON.
WHICH IS HOW I WOUND UP **HERE** POSING AS **LE CONCIERGE** --
-- WHILE HIS BOSS CALLED TOGETHER A MEETING OF **EUROPE'S UNDERWORLD ELITE.**

EVEN THOUGH HE'S *AMERICAN,* HE CLEARLY HAD THE ATTENTION OF SOME OF EUROPE'S MOST *INFLUENTIAL* MOVERS AND SHAKERS.
THERE IS NO NEED FOR *INTRODUCTIONS,* LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN *PART* BECAUSE NONE OF YOU WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED.
LET IT *SUFFICE* TO SAY YOU ARE SOME OF THE MOST *"POWERFUL"* PEOPLE IN YOUR *RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.*
FOR *YEARS,* YOU HAVE BEEN AT THE MERCY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS S.H.I.E.L.D. --
-- WHO HAVE TAKEN *GREAT PAINS* TO INSURE YOUR *SPHERE* OF *INFLUENCE* EXPANDED NO FARTHER THAN YOUR OWN COUNTRY.
STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERVENTION ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIRECTORATE
SO I HAD *HEARD.*
THAT *ENDS TONIGHT.*
THAT IS IT ENDS TONIGHT FOR THOSE *WILLING* TO PAY *MY PRICE.*


FOR YEARS, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS HAD A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY -- THE LIKES OF WHICH COULD RECALIBRATE A HUMAN BRAIN WITH MANY DIFFERENT SIDE EFFECTS.
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS CREATING UNDERCOVER IDENTITIES SO DEFINED THAT EVEN THE MOST SKILLED PSION COULD NOT PENETRATE THEIR COVER IDENTITIES.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHAVED.
YOU OKAY, BUDDY? YOU DON'T LOOK SO HOT.
AS THE KINGPIN SPOKE, IT WAS AS IF I HAD HEARD THOSE WORDS BEFORE.
I WAS IN A ROOM...
"DAREDEVIL.." HE SAID...
"...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS YOU?"
I...GUESS THAT'S HOW I CAME TO BE WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. THIS WAY.
DEEP UNDERCOVER.
BUT... WHAT KIND OF NAME IS DAREDEVIL?
I HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY AROUND THAT TECHNOLOGY WITH THE USE OF A HUMAN BEING CAPABLE OF REIMPRINTING THE SYNAPSES OF A BRAIN.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MAX MULLINS, A FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT NAMED SYNAPSE.
HI, EVERY --
HE IS MY KEY TO UNDERMINDING ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S EUROPEAN OPERATIONS.
WELL, MAYBE NOT ALL OF THEM...
SPLENDID SHOW, OLD MAN.
SO, HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST US?
25% OF EVERY ENDEAVOR IN WHICH YOU'RE INVOLVED.
AND BEFORE YOU BALK AT THAT MODEST SUM, LET ME OFFER AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS PROCESS WORKS...

I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
LAST WEEK, Dr. DUBOIS HAD THE UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE OF ENCOUNTERING A *S.H.I.E.L.D.* AGENT WHO HAD RECENTLY UNDERGONE A REWIRING OF HIS MIND.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HER *"WEEK FOR WEIRDOS."*
?!
THAT'S ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS SHE SAID TO ME.
I REALIZED THEN SHE WAS JUST WAITING FOR ME TO DO SOMETHING --
-- BUT WHAT?
NOW SHE WILL SERVE AS A LIVING EXAMPLE TO YOU PEOPLE.
WITHIN MOMENTS, SIX YEARS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION -- NOT TO MENTION EVERY MEMORY OF HER OWN -- WILL BE REPLACED WITH ALL NEW THOUGHTS.
WHETHER THAT IS PERMANENT OR MERELY TEMPORARY IS SOMETHING WE CAN DISCUSS LATER.
AS MUCH FUN AS THIS WILL BE, *MONSIEUR*, MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THE ACTUAL S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT I CAPTURED AS THE DEMONSTRATION?
NOT A HORRIBLE IDEA. CONCIERGE.
WHY DON'T YOU BRING HIM HERE -- HE'LL BE NEXT.
WILL IT HURT?
LOTS, ACTUALLY.
BUT YOU WON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THE PAIN.
WHAT A NICE GUY, Eh?

DO YOU WANT TO BEG OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S MY FAVORITE PART.
I DON'T DO BEGGING...
NOT YET... *BUT* MAYBE I'LL REPROGRAM YOU WITH THE MIND OF A DOG.
I'LL BE SURE TO *RIP* YOUR THROAT OUT!
WHU --?!
WHAM
NO.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO.
IN THE FEW MOMENTS IT TOOK ME TO CHANGE OUT OF CONCIERGE'S UNIFORM, AND INTO MY OWN...
...I DIDN'T MISS MUCH.
AS EVERY EYE IN THE ROOM TURNED TOWARDS ME, I HAVE TO CONFESS, THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY...
...COMFORTABLE...
... ABOUT IT ALL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE I COULD REMEMBER -- WHICH ADMITTEDLY WASN'T VERY LONG AGO -- I FELT THIS IS WHO I WAS.
THIS IS WHAT I AM.
THIS IS WHAT I WAS BORN TO DO.
THE NAME IS LEVASSEUR.
LAURENT LEVASSEUR.
KLAK
KLIK

I SEE YOUR HANDS ARE BUSY --
-- SO I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO EXCUSE MY FEET!
KRAK
WOULPHN!
HOW DID YOU --?!
NO TIME FOR DETAILS!
WHAK
GO THROUGH THAT DOOR, UP THOSE STAIRS, AND CALL THE POLICE!
TRY TO REACH S.H.I.E.L.D., TELL THEM EVERYTHING YOU KNOW!
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE!
GO, NOW! DOCTOR'S ORDERS!
BUT I'M THE DOCTOR!
DON'T SWEAT THE DETAILS.
YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
I DOUBT IT! HE'S THAT PASTY-FACED GUY IN THE RED TIGHTS, RIGHT?
NEVER READ HIM.

...INSTEAD, I THROW MYSELF INTO THE CENTER OF IT ALL!
SOMEONE -- *ANYONE* -- GET *HIM!*
GET ME? NICE THOUGHT. BUT...
...WHAT DO YOU GET...
... THE GUY WHO HAS...
...EVERYTHING?
Oh WAIT -- I GOT IT:
YOU CAN ALL TURN YOURSELVES IN TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES --
-- I COULD TAKE THE CREDIT AND LAND AN EXCLUSIVE TELL-ALL BOOK DEAL --
-- AND WE ALL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

THAT SOUND --?!
WHY COULDN'T ANYONE ELSE HEAR IT?
TO ME -- IT WAS AS IF SOMEONE WAS CARRYING A JACKHAMMER INTO THE ROOM.
BUT AS IT WAS --
-- IT TURNED OUT MY HYPERHEARING WAS PICKING UP THE SOUND OF KINGPIN ABOUT TO STRIKE!
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE INTERFERED IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE NONE OF YOUR CONCERN, Mr. LEVASSEUR.
YOU KNOW US FRENCH -- NATURALLY CURIOUS.
WHAM
I TRIED TO SOUND CASUAL...

...BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...
... I WAS MAKING THIS UP AS I WENT ALONG!
PART OF THAT MEANT LETTING MY BODY ACT INSTINCTIVELY --
YOU'RE QUICK, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
MERCI.
AND I'LL GIVE YOU A KICK IN THE CHEST!
-- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID!
I'D HAVE HAD BETTER LUCK TRYING TO KNOCK OVER A MOUNTAIN WITH A SPOON.
ARE YOU FINISHED?
UNMPH
FOR THE MOMENT.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN A FAN OF WOULD-BE HEROES WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR.
EVEN THOUGH THINGS LOOKED BAD, I TOOK SOLACE IN THE KNOWLEDGE --

-- THAT CLAUDIA, AT LEAST, WAS SAFE.
I DON'T **HAVE** ANY OTHER DETAILS, OFFICER!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW!
NOW, PLEASE, WE NEED YOUR HELP! MY FRIEND IS STILL TRAPPED THERE WITH A BUNCH OF LUNATICS WITH GUNS!
PLEASE, OFFICER -- WE NEED HELP! ***GOT IT?!***
SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY...
TO THINK, ***YESTERDAY*** I WAS SEARCHING THE CITY STREETS FOR MY BEST FRIEND, ***MATT MURDOCK*** --
-- AND TODAY I'M COOLING MY HEELS IN A ***PARIS*** POLICE STATION AS SHIELD USES ALL THEIR CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE TO TRACK DOWN MATT'S ALTER EGO, ***DAREDEVIL!***
I'D LIKE TO SAY I WAS HOPEFUL, BUT...
AND NOTHING AT THE LOCAL HOSPITALS?
NOT BASED ON YOUR DESCRIPTION, NO. BUT THERE WAS A --
AGENT SENYAKA?
WE JUST RECEIVED A PARTICULARLY STRANGE TELEPHONE CALL FROM A WOMAN WHO MENTIONED ***S.H.I.E.L.D.!***
!
THIS COULD BE THE BREAK WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

ALL OF WHICH BRINGS US PRETTY MUCH UP TO SPEED.
SO, NOW I KNOW HOW I GOT HERE...
...THE TRICK NOW IS FIGURING HOW TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS.
IF ONLY I COULD REMEMBER WHO I AM...
...I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT WOULD MAKE ALL OF THIS SO MUCH EASIER!
NOT THAT THIS HASN'T BEEN A BLAST, MONSIEUR FISK, BUT I REALLY MUST BE --
NO ONE LEAVES.
-- I REALLY MUST BE SITTING BACK DOWN AND ENJOYING THE SHOW. SIR.
MAX, USE YOUR SYNAPSE *DISRUPTING* POWER TO SHOW OUR GUESTS HERE THAT THEIR RESOURCES WOULD BE WELL SPENT ON THIS ENDEAVOR.
GLADLY, BOSS.
I OWE THIS GUY FOR MAKING ME LOOK STUPID.
WHY DO I GET THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION...
...THIS IS THE LAST THE WORLD WILL EVER KNOW --
-- OF LAURENT LEVASSEUR?

WHOA.
IT'S LIKE LICKING AN ELECTRIC BLANKET WHILE STANDING IN A BUCKET OF ICE WATER.
I'M ASSUMING ANYWAY.
IN WHAT FEELS LIKE LESS THAN A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT OF A MOMENT --
-- MY ENTIRE LIFE FLASHES BEFORE ME.
MY ENTIRE LIFE.
MATT MURDOCK.
RINGSIDE.
CHEERING ON DAD.
SAVING THAT BLIND MAN...
... AT THE COST OF MY OWN EYESIGHT...
... BLINDED BY THE TOXIC WASTE.
BUT THE CONTAMINATION HAD POSITIVE EFFECTS.
SENSES HEIGHTENED BEYOND MY CONTROL.
SON? CAN YOU HEAR ME, SON?
...YOU'RE A HERO, BOY.
UNTIL *STICK* TAUGHT ME THAT CONTROL...
... AND MORE.
FOGGY NELSON, MY PARTNER.
KAREN PAGE, MY SECRETARY...
WILSON FISK, KINGPIN OF CRIME.
THE ANTITHESIS OF EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN.
ELEKTRA...
... A LOVE DOOMED BY DESTINY.
BULLSEYE.
I ALMOST LOST IT TO VENGEANCE.
LATER, I ALMOST LOST IT TO A FALL FROM GRACE.
I ULTIMATELY RETURNED TO THE COURTROOM.
LAWYER BY DAY...
... *DAREDEVIL* -- THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR -- BY NIGHT!
THAT IS WHO I AM.

Um, BOSS.
I THINK WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE.
WHAT KIND OF PROBLEM, SYNAPSE?
WELL, I'VE BEEN DOING THIS REWIRING THING FOR A FEW YEARS NOW...
...AND I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF REACTIONS.
BUT NOBODY HAS EVER... SMILED?
MAYBE BECAUSE NO ONE'S EVER ENJOYED IT.
AND IN CASE IT DOESN'T COME UP LATER, MAX..?
THANKS.
LOADS.
THAT VOICE --?!
KWAK
Shhh.
YOU'LL RUIN THE SURPRISE!
KIK
URP?!
I CAN... SEE?
BUT... HOW?
MAYBE I BETTER FIGURE THAT OUT LATER.
AS NICE AS IT IS TO SEE YOU AGAIN, FISK --

-- YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF I *TURN OFF* THE *LIGHTS.*
YOU KNOW I *HATE* BEING SEEN *OUTSIDE* OF MY SNAZZY DAREDEVIL THREADS!
JUST AS I... THOUGHT AT FIRST, IT *IS* YOU!
KLASK
HAVE TO *FOCUS*...CAN'T LET MY *EYESIGHT* DISTRACT ME.
CONCENTRATE ON MY RADAR SENSE...AND...
...*PERFECT!*
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY *HAPPY* TO SEE ME!
WHAT *POSSIBLE* REASON WOULD I HAVE TO BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU?
Ummm...NOW YOU'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO *SHARE* WITH THE *FORTUNE TELLER* LADY WHO READS THE *LUMPS* ON YOUR HEAD.

I MUST ADMIT TO BEING IMPRESSED, DAREDEVIL, IF ONLY SLIGHTLY.
DESPITE THE OVERLY ELABORATE DISGUISE --
-- THE PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS TO YOUR APPEARANCE --
KIK
-- EVEN THE DETAILED FRENCH PERSONA YOU HAVE ADOPTED --
-- YOU ARE AS PROFOUND AN IRRITATION AS EVER!
STOP -- YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH!
WULPHN!
WHAM
THIS EYESIGHT KEEPS PROVING TO BE A DISTRACTION!
DOWN AGAIN? WHY DO I GET THE SENSE YOU ARE AS CONFOUNDED BY YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN ALL OF THIS AS I AM?
COULD IT BE YOU'D ALREADY HAD YOUR MIND REWIRED BEFORE YOU GOT HERE?!
COULD IT BE YOU WERE WAITING FOR SYNAPSE TO MAKE HIS ATTEMPT, COUNTING ON HIM TO FREE YOU?
WOW, YOU'RE GOOD AT THIS.
CAN WE PLAY "TRUTH OR DARE" NEXT?
WHAM

THE TIME FOR GAMES IS OVER!
YOU TOOK QUITE A RISK -- WHAT IF SYNAPSE HAD NEVER ATTEMPTED TO REWORK YOUR BRAIN ENGRAMS?
YOU COULD HAVE REMAINED AS LAURENT LEVASSEUR FOREVER.
I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT OF THAT!
WHERE WERE YOU LAST WEEK?
I'M TAUNTING, OF COURSE.
MY MEMORIES ARE COMING BACK NOW.
JUST AS MY EYESIGHT IS STARTING TO FADE?
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND THIS, FISK --
-- BUT I'M GOING THROUGH SOME FAIRLY RADICAL CHANGES NOW THAT MY MIND IS MY OWN AGAIN.
AND IF I'M GOING BACK TO BEING EVERYONE'S FAVORITE MAN WITHOUT FEAR...
... I'D REALLY HATE IT IF YOUR JUMBO-SIZED PROFILE WAS THE LAST THING I EVER SAW!
FWIP
I WAIT FOR THE RESOUNDING THUD THAT SHOULD ACCOMPANY A FALL BY A MAN SO MASSIVE.
BUT, AS USUAL, HE LANDS WITH A GRACE THAT BELIES HIS SIZE.

OR... **DOES** HE LAND AT ALL?!
I'M SUDDENLY **DISTRACTED** BY THE **BRILLIANT LIGHTS** WHICH NOW **FLOOD** THIS BOARDROOM --
-- MY EYES GROWING **MORE SENSITIVE** WITH **EACH** MOMENT!
EVERYONE **FREEZE!**
Um... **BONSOIR?**
WE MANAGED TO ROUND UP THE **REST** OF THE SO-CALLED **MOVERS** AND **SHAKERS** OF EUROPE'S **CRIMINAL UNDERGROUND...**
... BUT WHERE'S THE **BIG KAHUNA** -- THE **KINGPIN?**
LOOKS LIKE THE **LOCAL HERO** LET HIM GET AWAY.
IGNORE MY **COLLEAGUES**, SIR. I, FOR **ONE**, APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS ON **BEHALF** OF **S.H.I.E.L.D.**
YOU **ARE** DAREDEVIL, I PRESUME.
THE **ONE** AND **ONLY.**
WHERE'S AGENT HARLAN?
DEAD. IT WAS AN **ACCIDENT.**
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN **HAPPY** TO KNOW THAT HIS **BROTHER'S DEATH** LAST WEEK **WASN'T** IN VAIN.
AT LEAST YOU **BROKE UP** THIS **PARTICULAR** CRIME RING.
AND WE **MANAGED** TO **CAPTURE** THE KING --
DON'T EVEN **BOTHER** SAYING IT, **TIA.**
HE'S **NOWHERE** TO BE SEEN.
HE **NEVER** IS... WHEN HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE.

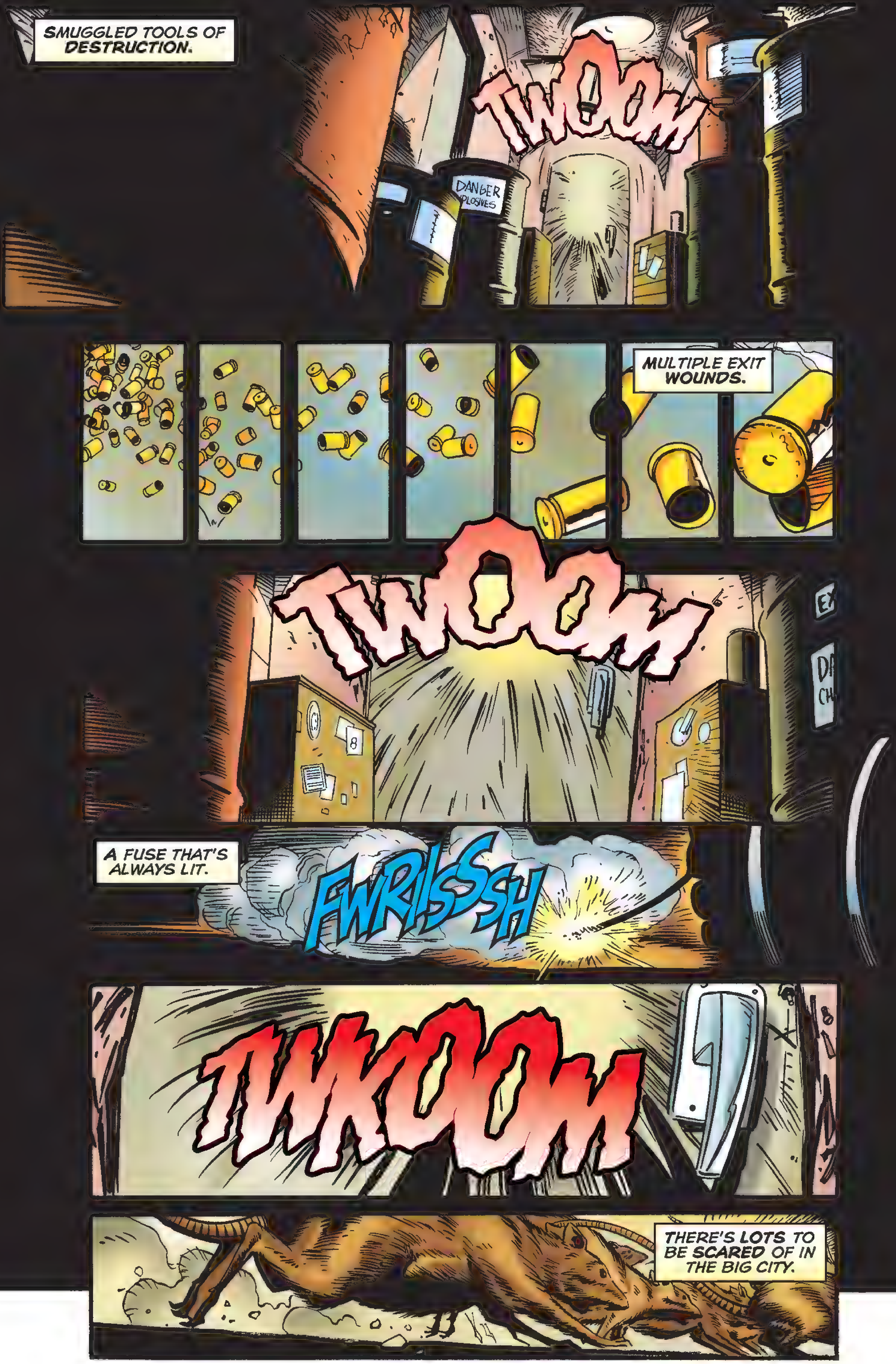
IT IS SOMETIME LATER...
...AND THE LOCAL GENDARMES HAVE TAKEN ON THE TASK OF CLEAN-UP.
WHICH CLEARLY INCLUDES ME.
AGENT SENYAKA ASSURES ME THE CALLOGEN INJECTIONS TO MY NOSE, CHEEKS AND BROW WILL EVENTUALLY FADE --
-- RETURNING MY FACE TO ITS FORMER GLORY, SUCH AS IT IS.
A FEW SOLID RINSES AND I'LL EVEN HAVE MY FAMILIAR RED HAIR BACK AGAIN.
THOSE ARE THE EASY CHANGES.
I'D BE LYING IF I DIDN'T ADMIT I'LL MISS THE SIDE-EFFECT OF MY REWIRED MIND.
I'LL MISS BEING ABLE TO SEE AGAIN.
LAURENT?!
LAURENT -- YOU'RE ALIVE!
THAT'S... ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
AS ALIVE AS I EVER WAS.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
NOTHING. IT'S NICE...
...TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Um... DAREDEVIL?
FOGGY.

HE IS THE **BEST FRIEND** I HAVE **EVER** HAD.
EVERYTHING **OKAY?**
THIS IS THE **FIRST** TIME I'VE **EVER** SEEN HIM.
IT IS A **GLANCE** THAT ONLY LASTS A **MOMENT.**
YET...
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
...IN A **WAY...**
...I **KNOW** IT WILL LAST A **LIFETIME.**
FINI

MARVEL® COMICS
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!®
OCT
#380
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE CA AUTHORITY
WWW.MARVEL.COM
CHICHESTER
WEEKS
CAMPANELLA
THIS ISSUE:
BOOM!
LW '98

LAST NIGHT, 11:02 P.M.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK. ON THE HUDSON.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.
LOOK AT THE CITY THE WAY A BLIND MAN SEES.
THE SCRAPING GRIT OF RUST.
SEAWATER SALT, DRIED AND FINE AND CRUMBLY.
SPILLED VODKA FLAVORS THE AIR, THE TASTE OLD AND RANCID.
AN ELECTRIC HUM FROM DOWN BELOW, SPARKING-SAVAGE.
THE HARD, CRUEL STINK OF CHEMICALS MADE TO KILL.

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN THIS TOWN.
SKRIIT
SKREEET
PICTURE-PERFECT, PICTURE WINDOW VIEWS ON THE WORLD.
EXOTIC PETS.
SKREEE
SKREEE
SPORT HUNTING.
COMPOUND FRACTURES.
FWRAAK


SMUGGLED TOOLS OF DESTRUCTION.
TWOOM
DANGER
PLOSIVES
MULTIPLE EXIT WOUNDS.
TWOOM
8
A FUSE THAT'S ALWAYS LIT.
FWRISSSH
TWKOOM
THERE'S LOTS TO BE SCARED OF IN THE BIG CITY.

BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE MAN WITHOUT FEAR.

AS MATT MURDOCK RECOVERS FROM HIS ADVENTURE IN PARIS, STAN LEE PRESENTS A TALE FROM DAREDEVIL'S PAST.

JUST ONE GOOD STORY

BY D.G. CHICHESTER AND LEE WEEKS
ROBERT CAMPANELLA INKS
SCHEELE AND LAUGHLIN AND BERNARDO COLORS
RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT'S LIZ LETTERS
TIM TUOHY EDIITOR BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF

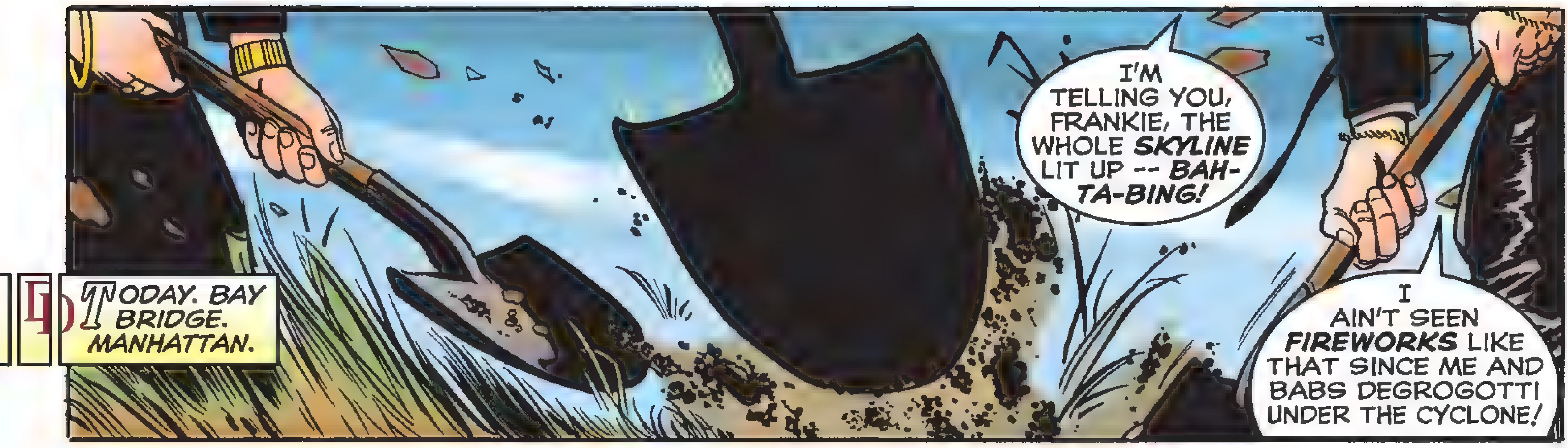
DEDICATED TO ARCHIE GOODWIN FOR BEING EVER GENEROUS IN SHARING MORE THAN A FEW GOOD STORIES OF HIS OWN.

DAREDEVIL 376-379 Tim

TODAY. AVENUE "C", MANHATTAN.
YOU HEAR THEM TALKIN', MARTY? YOU HEAR? LIKE THEY KNOW JACK!
THAT BLOW-UP YOU MEAN? YEAH, I HEARD.
THEY'RE SAYIN' HORNHEAD'S INTO IT.
COULD BE. MAYBE. PROBABLY. POINT IS, FINGERS, THEY BLIND TO THE BIG PICTURE.
BIG SURPRISE.
TRUTH. YOU MISS THE DETAILS LOOKIN' DOWN ON THE CITY FROM UP TOP.
THEY DON'T SEE US. BUT WHAT A VIEW WE GET FROM DOWN HERE!
Middle East Dictator Provokes U.S. War Machine
THE DAILY BUGLE
By Ben Urich
Oh, YOU GOTTA TRY THIS BRIE!
I GOT IT OUT OF THE DUMPSTER IN FRONT O' THAT FRENCHIE JOINT ON 28th...
THREE WEEKS AGO, THE UPPER WEST SIDE.
WE SELL DEATH.
I DOUBT YOU'RE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT. MAYBE IT'S SURPRISING TO HEAR IT STATED WITH SUCH HONESTY.
BUT MY EMPLOYERS ARE OF THE MIND THAT A MAN IN YOUR POSITION CAN RELATE TO THEIR BUSINESS.

THE FACT IS, THEY TAKE *PRIDE* IN THEIR TRADE. PULLING THE *STRINGS* OF *POWER*. BUILDING THE *WEAPONS* OF *WAR*.
THIS *TENSION* IN THE MIDDLE EAST PRESENTS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR *PROFIT*.
The Daily Bu
iddle East Dictator
Provokes U.S.
War Machine
BUT THE *START* BUTTON ON THE *WAR MACHINE* HAS A TENDENCY TO STICK. IT REQUIRES *OIL*. A CATALYST.
OR SIMPLY A *SCAPEGOAT*.
I DON'T KNOW WHY ANY OF THIS SHOULD INTEREST ME, MISS PORTAL.
I'M ONLY A *SPICE MERCHANT*.
AND A *HUMBLE* ONE, AT THAT.
EXACTLY WHY WE'VE COME TO YOU, Mr. FISK.
WE NEED SOMEONE TO...*SPICE THINGS* UP!
WE'RE PREPARED TO *PAY* HANDSOMELY.
A *KINGPIN'S RANSOM*, YOU MIGHT SAY.

DO I APPEAR **BELOW** THE **POVERTY** LINE TO YOU, MISS PORTAL?
N-NO, Mr. FISK! OF COURSE -- OF COURSE NOT! I-I WAS MERELY TRYING TO EXPRESS OUR GENEROSITY.
WHY DON'T WE CONTINUE THE EVENING'S SPIRIT OF HONESTY?
I HAVE **NO NEED** OF YOUR **GENEROSITY.**
INDEED, IT IS YOU THAT **DEPENDS** ON MY **GENEROUS** NATURE.
C-CERTAINLY! IF I **OFFENDED** --
YOU'D ALREADY BE **DEAD.**
THE **PUPPETEERS** YOU WORK FOR LIKE TO PLAY AT *"POWER BROKER"*? LET'S SEE HOW FAR THEY STRETCH THEIR **STRING.**
A SHIP SET TO SEA THREE DAYS AGO, REGISTERED IN St. PETERSBURG, CREWED BY MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED **RUSSIAN MAFIA.**
I...KNOW THAT SHIP -- *THE PROPHECY.* ITS **CARGO** COMES FROM EACH OF THE **SOVIET** STATES.
LETHAL PRODUCE.
THE KIND OF **WEAPONS** THE LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION SIGNED TREATIES **PROMISING** THEY'D **NEVER BUILD.**
Mr. FISK, I'M NOT **AUTHORIZED** TO MAKE THAT KIND OF **OFFER** --
DON'T PRESUME IT'S A REQUEST, MISS PORTAL.
AND **DON'T** DARE **DISAPPOINT** ME.
THANK YOU FOR DINNER. IN TRUTH, THE MEAL WAS A BIT BLAND...
...BUT I'M SO PLEASED I COULD ADD SOME **SPICE!**
ORANGE JUICE not FROM CO

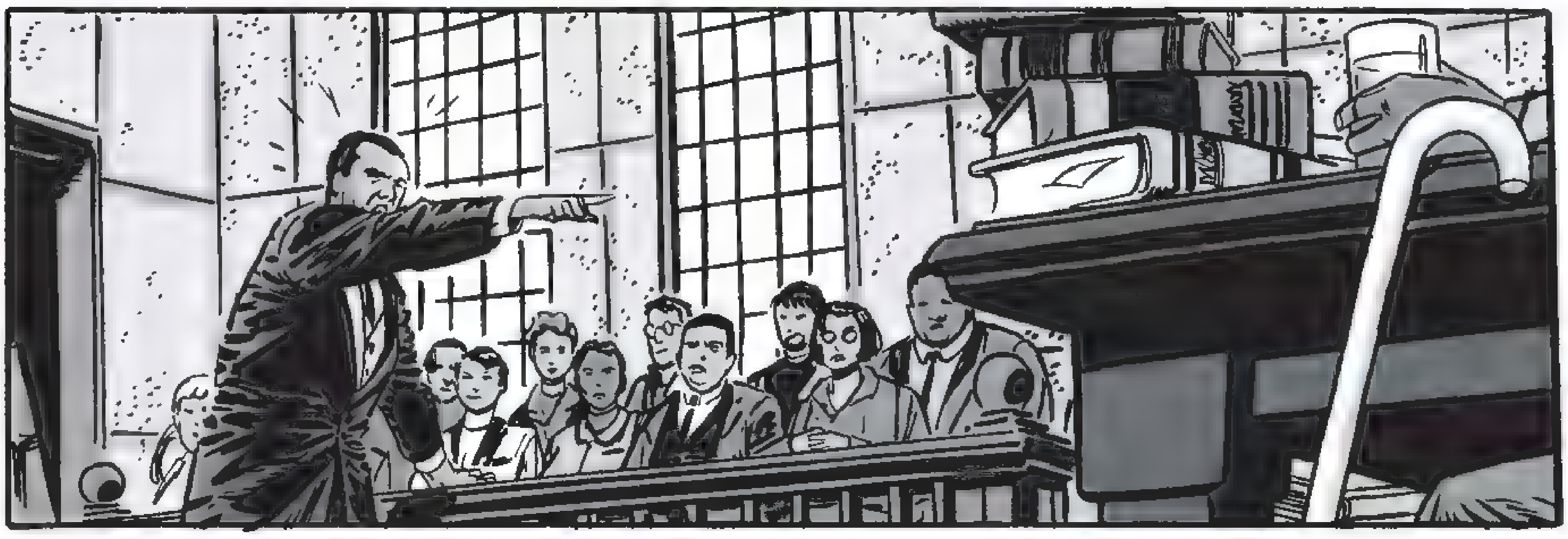

TODAY. BAY BRIDGE. MANHATTAN.
I'M TELLING YOU, FRANKIE, THE WHOLE **SKYLINE** LIT UP -- ***BAH-TA-BING!***
I AIN'T SEEN **FIREWORKS** LIKE THAT SINCE ME AND BABS DEGROGOTTI UNDER THE CYCLONE!

FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, MANHATTAN.

*"**TERRORISM!**"*

THE PROSECUTOR SPITS THE WORD.

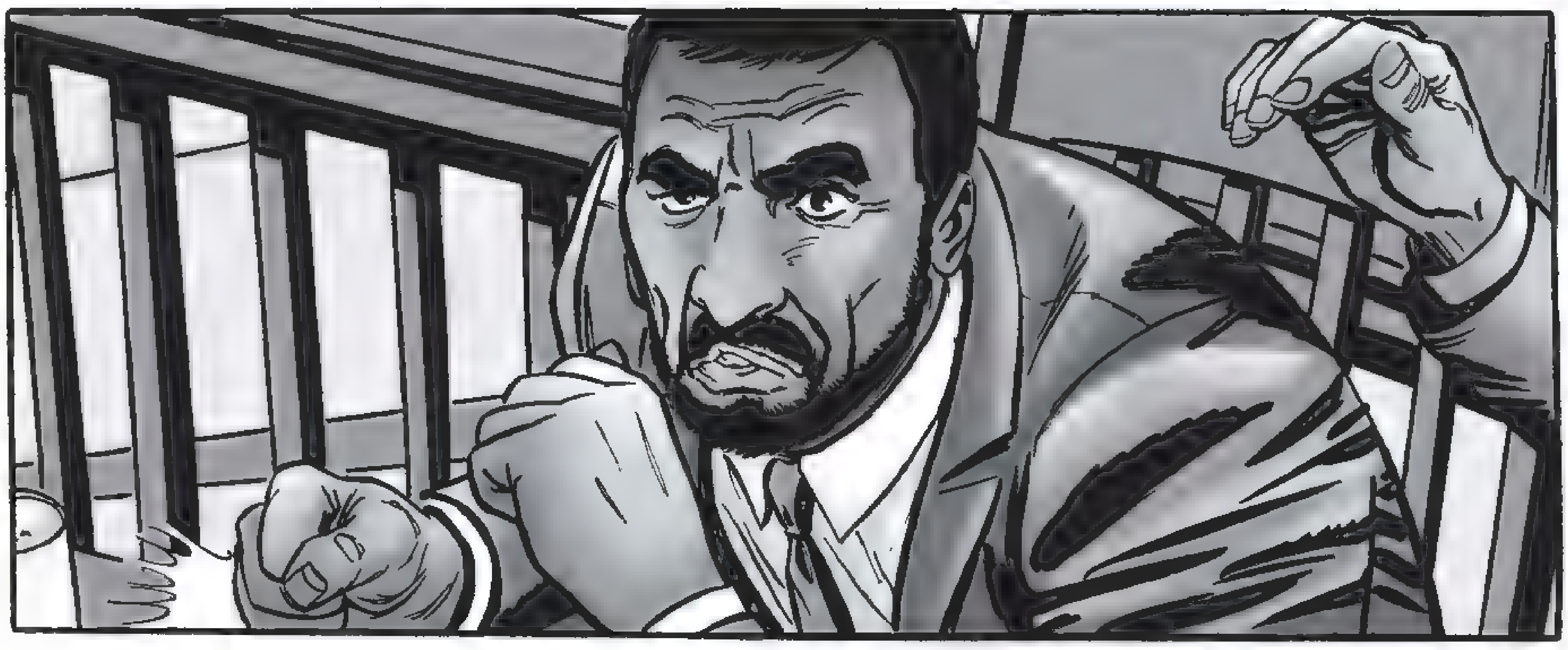
"THIS ISN'T A CONCEPT ANYMORE, PEOPLE, NOT SOME FAR-AWAY HEADLINE.



*"HE'S MADE IT PAINFULLY **REAL** FOR US. 27 BODIES REAL. THIS **'MAN'** -- MORE LIKE THIS **ANIMAL!***

*"PARLAN FARHOODY HAS **NO RESPECT** FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE -- AND NO REGARD FOR HUMAN LIFE.*

*"HE'S A **KILLER**. MURDERING IN THE NAME OF **ABNORMAL**, SAVAGE BELIEFS...AND HE'D GLADLY DO IT AGAIN!*

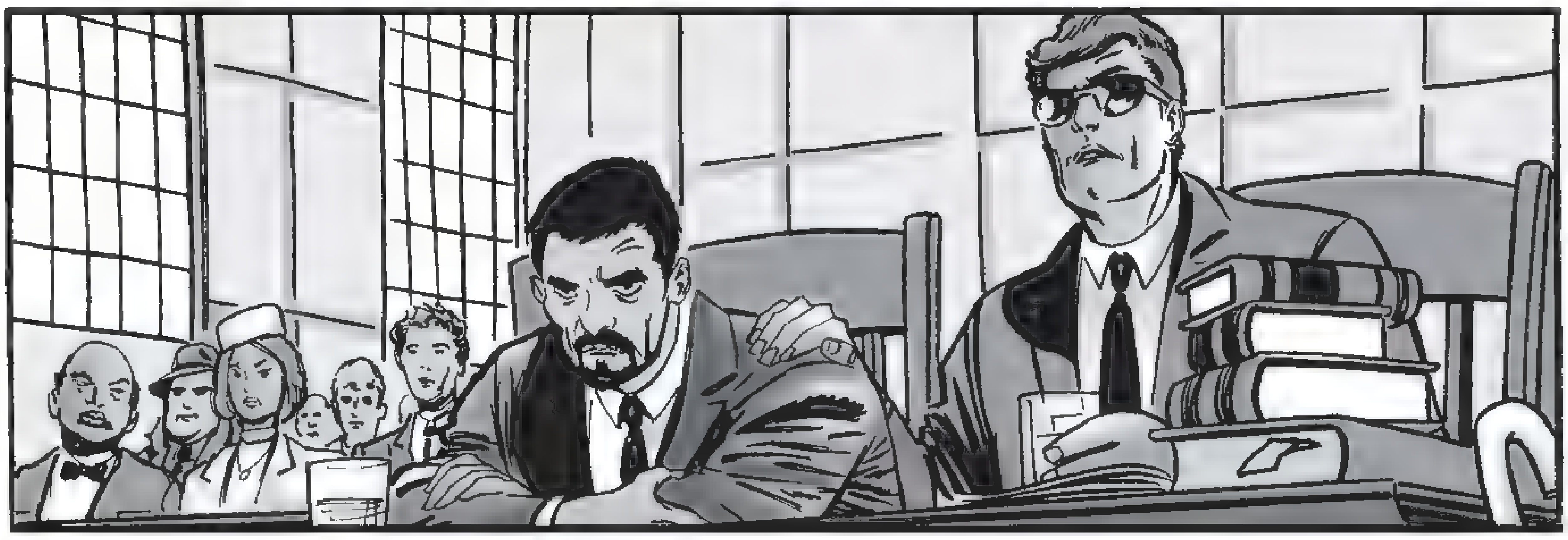


*"LOOK AT HIM -- EVEN NOW, HE CAN BARELY HOLD IN HIS **RAGE!**"*

"STAY CALM."

THE VOICE ***ISN'T SOOTHING.***

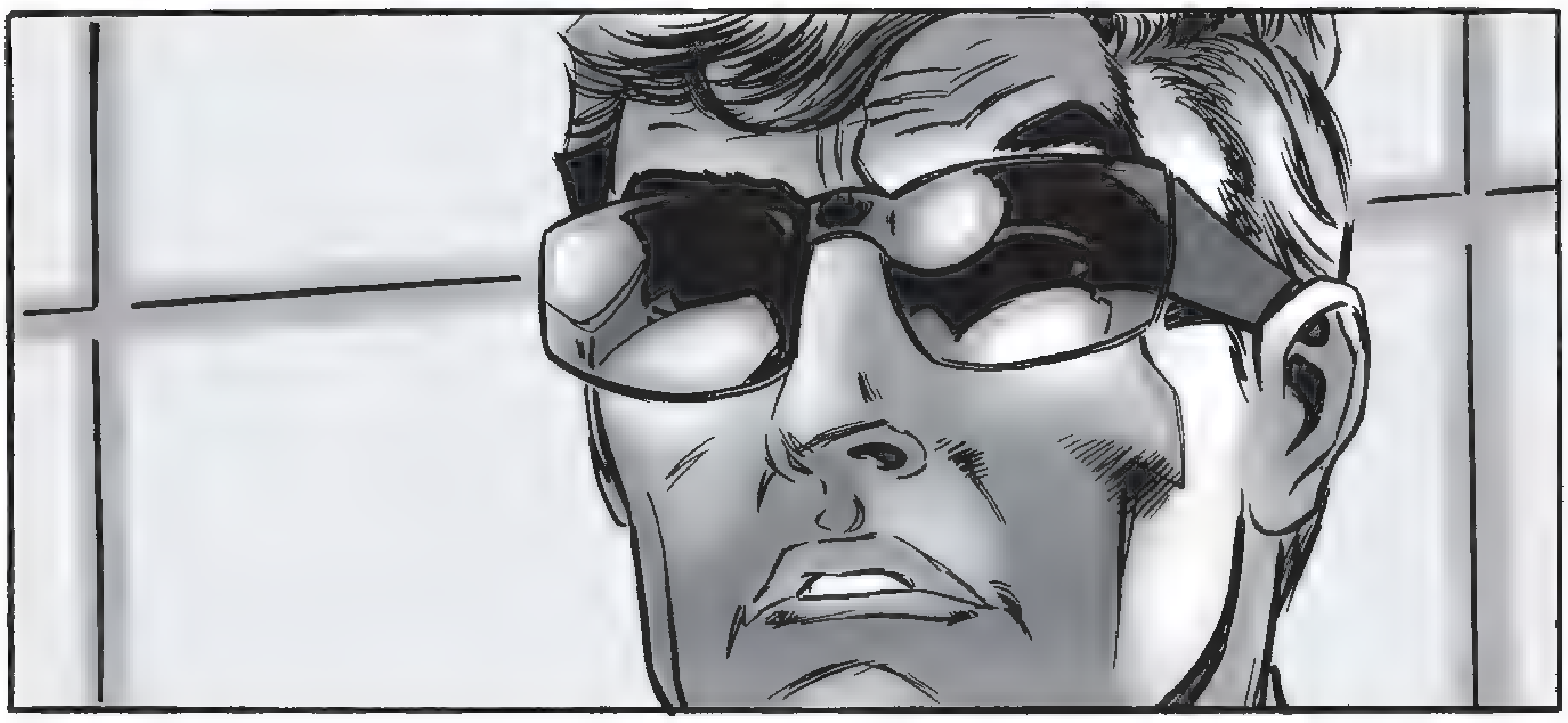
IT'S STERN-WRY-STORMY. A ***RECKLESS*** SAY-YOUR-PRAYERS SIGN-YOUR-WILL-BEFORE-CROSSING-IT KIND OF VOICE.



THE ATTORNEY WITH THE VOCAL ATTITUDE IS ***MATTHEW MURDOCK.***

KNOWN IN LEGAL CIRCLES TO BE SOMETHING OF A ***DAREDEVIL.***

*"YOU'LL GET **YOUR DAY** IN **COURT**. I SWEAR..."*



BAY RIDGE.
WORD IS, IT'S *DAREDEVIL* DONE THAT *HARBOR JOB...*
WHOSE WORD, CARMINE?
SMASH-NOSE JOEY. PETE LONDON'S CREW.
FUGEDDABOUDIT, I'S SAY!
YEAH, BUT IF IT'S FOR REAL, RED'S GOT A *FUTURE* IN *DEMOLITION* WORK!
YOU THINK HE *HIRES OUT?*
WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS MOOK?
AFTER ALL OUR *HARD WORK!*
POW
POW
"GOOD GUYS" BLOWIN' THINGS UP, DEAD GUYS NOT STAYIN' DOWN...YOU *CAN'T TRUST* NOTHIN' FOR NOTHIN' NO MORE!
PERSONALLY, I FIND IT VERY *DISTRESSING.*
SO...YOU AND BABS DEGROGOTTI, Huh?
FWRAAK

DD THREE WEEKS AGO.
SILVERTONGUE'S GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, MANHATTAN.
WHAT'S THIS JOB COMIN' UP?
I DON'T KNOW. SOME **PROBLEM** PETE LONDON WANTS **BURIED...**
Private
I'M SO **PLEASED** YOU'VE ACCEPTED MY **INVITATION --**
-- TO **SAMPLE** A TASTE OF MY CITY'S... **ENTICEMENTS!**
ANYONE KNOW WHEN BABS GOES ON?
YOUR **REPUTATIONS** SPEAK OF A **UNIQUE** COLLECTION OF GIFTS.
ANARCHY... EXTORTION... **MURDER!**
SUCH **TALENTS** DESERVE TO BE **REWARDED!**

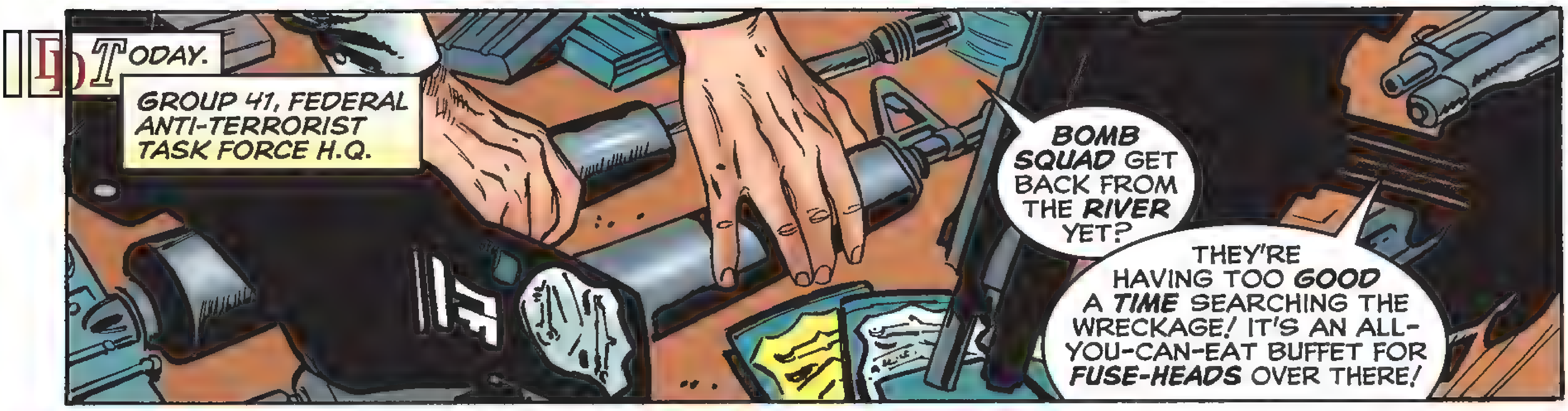
JUST GIVE ME THE BOTTLE!
BE *MY GUEST*, BULLSEYE!
YOU ARE ALL MY GUESTS... FOR WHAT YOU CAN EACH *CONTRIBUTE* TO THE *ENTERPRISE* BEFORE US!
OUR DELEGATE FROM *THE HAND* BRINGS WITH HIM THE *LETHAL* SKILLS OF HIS NINJA SECT!
BUSHWHACKER LENDS HIS BIONIC *FIREPOWER!*
BULLSEYE, OF COURSE, ADDS HIS LEGENDARY -- AND HOMICIDAL -- *MARKSMANSHIP!*
YOU ARE ACCOMPLISHED *PREDATORS!* I *APPLAUD* YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!
AND I OFFER A *PARTNERSHIP!*
TOGETHER, WE SHALL *DESTROY* THE LIFE OF AN *INNOCENT* MAN.
WE WILL *INJECT* AN UNHEALTHY DOSE OF *DREAD* AND *RAGE* INTO THE *NATIONAL* CONSCIOUSNESS.
AND WE WILL SHARE IN A *PROFIT* OF *STAGGERING* POTENTIAL!
TALENTS SUCH AS OURS DESERVE TO BE *REWARDED...*

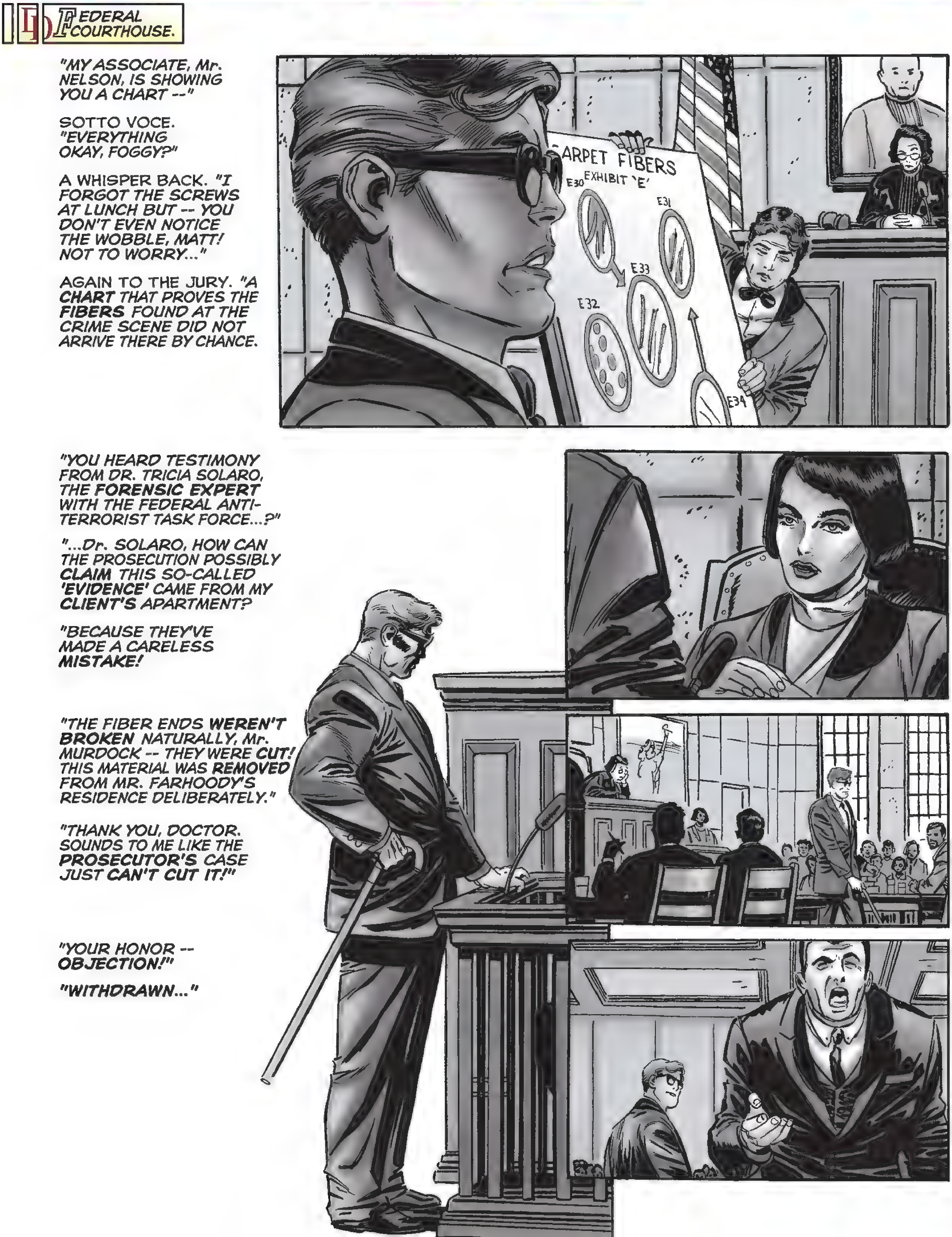
TODAY. PELL STREET, CHINATOWN.
YOU WANT TO BUY, OLD MAN? ORANGES IS GOOD LUCK -- YOU SHOULD BUY!
NO... NO! I NO WANT THIS FRUIT -- IS ROTTED! GO AWAY!
TODAY. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE, MANHATTAN.
TENSION IN THE COURTROOM'S ALREADY RUNNING HIGH.
MATT MURDOCK'S LEGAL STRATEGY IS TO TURN THE HEAT UP EVEN MORE.
"LET'S LOOK AT PARLAN FARHOODY," MURDOCK SUGGESTS, HARSH AND ON THE ATTACK. "NOT THAT WE WANT TO!"
NOW THE VOICE IS SLY, THE TONE CONSPIRING.
"HIS FACE -- STRANGE... ALIEN!
"HE PRAYS TO A GOD MOST OF US NEITHER KNOW OR CARE ABOUT!
"HE EATS THINGS WE THINK AREN'T FIT FOR A DOG...
"...DESERT FLAVORS THAT SWEAT THROUGH HIS SKIN.
"ALL THESE THINGS... THESE ARE WHAT WE SEE WHEN WE LOOK AT PARLAN FARHOODY.
"THEY'RE FOR CERTAIN WHAT THE PROSECUTOR WANTS YOU TO SEE.
"AND NONE OF THEM MUST MATTER.
"BECAUSE JUSTICE IS BLIND."

CHINATOWN.
JUST LIKE I SAY -- ROTTEN! NO ONE WANT -- I NO BUY! TAKE AWAY!
HOI MOON DAI KAT, OLD MAN! ORANGES IS TRADITION -- GOOD LUCK!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE SOI JAW -- HIT BY MISFORTUNE!
MAYBE IF THAT SHIP HAD SOME OF THESE ON BOARD, IT WOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN!
WHAT -- WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
ENOUGH.
Mmm... DELICIOUS!
SQLISSH
THREE WEEKS AGO.
MOSCO STREET.
SO I TELL HIM, "IT'S A HOLIDAY -- YOU CAN'T SAY NO! PAY US OUR HUNG BAO!"
AND THIS GUY, HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD AND SAY TO ME, "IT'S THANKSGIVING -- GUEY LOW FAAN HOLIDAY! NOT ONE OF OURS!"

I HAD TO *ADMIRE* THOSE *STONES*, EVEN WHILE I WAS *CUTTING* HIM...
PARLAN... COME TO BED!
I'M RIGHT THERE, DARLING!
THWAK
I THOUGHT I *HEARD*...
KLIK
...NEVER MIND...IT'S *NOTHING!*
SNIT
SNWIT
YOU NEED YOUR *REST*, PARLAN...

...THE INTERVIEW'S EARLY TOMORROW!
I KNOW...BUT I JUST **CAN'T SLEEP** IF I DON'T --
IT WON'T **UNLOCK** ON ITS **OWN?**
HA-HA. IT'S **EASY** FOR YOU TO **LAUGH!**
ME, I'VE HAD THIS FEELING ALL DAY LIKE SOMETHING **TERRIBLE** WAS GOING TO **HAPPEN!**
PRETTY **SILLY,** Huh?
SO HE SAYS, "YOU KNOW, **'CHAOS'** IN CHINESE *IS MADE UP OF TWO CHARACTERS..."*
AND I'M LIKE, *"JUST PAY ME THE* **LUCKY MONEY!"** BUT HE DON'T SHUT UP, AND HE'S SAYIN', *"THE ONE IS* **DANGER...**
"...AND THE OTHER IS **OPPORTUNITY!"**
SO I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO **BREAK** HIS **FACE...**


TODAY.
GROUP 41, FEDERAL ANTI-TERRORIST TASK FORCE H.Q.
BOMB SQUAD GET BACK FROM THE RIVER YET?
THEY'RE HAVING TOO GOOD A TIME SEARCHING THE WRECKAGE! IT'S AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT BUFFET FOR FUSE-HEADS OVER THERE!


FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.
"MY ASSOCIATE, Mr. NELSON, IS SHOWING YOU A CHART --"
SOTTO VOCE. "EVERYTHING OKAY, FOGGY?"
A WHISPER BACK. "I FORGOT THE SCREWS AT LUNCH BUT -- YOU DON'T EVEN NOTICE THE WOBBLE, MATT! NOT TO WORRY..."
AGAIN TO THE JURY. "A CHART THAT PROVES THE FIBERS FOUND AT THE CRIME SCENE DID NOT ARRIVE THERE BY CHANCE.
CARPET FIBERS
EXHIBIT 'E'
E30
E31
E32
E33
E34
"YOU HEARD TESTIMONY FROM DR. TRICIA SOLARO, THE FORENSIC EXPERT WITH THE FEDERAL ANTI-TERRORIST TASK FORCE...?"
"...Dr. SOLARO, HOW CAN THE PROSECUTION POSSIBLY CLAIM THIS SO-CALLED 'EVIDENCE' CAME FROM MY CLIENT'S APARTMENT?
"BECAUSE THEY'VE MADE A CARELESS MISTAKE!
"THE FIBER ENDS WEREN'T BROKEN NATURALLY, Mr. MURDOCK -- THEY WERE CUT! THIS MATERIAL WAS REMOVED FROM MR. FARHOODY'S RESIDENCE DELIBERATELY."
"THANK YOU, DOCTOR. SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THE PROSECUTOR'S CASE JUST CAN'T CUT IT!"
"YOUR HONOR -- OBJECTION!"
"WITHDRAWN..."

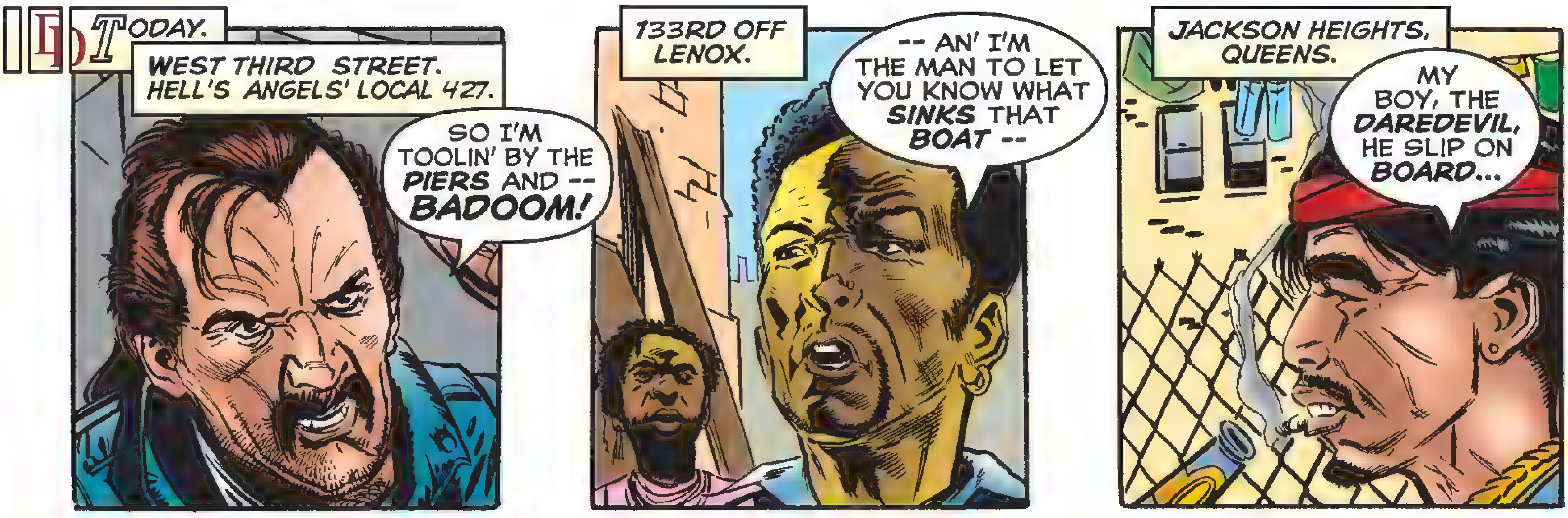
GROUP 41.
YOU TAKIN' ODDS, DRAGON LADY?
ON THE SOX?
ATF
ATF MOST WANTED
THAT'D BE A SUCKER BET, CHIEF! WHERE ARE YOU PUTTING MONEY ON THE EXPLOSION?
CULT? KLAN?
MOB? RELIGIOUS RIGHT?
JERRY SPRINGER FANS?
WELL, BOYS, I'LL TELL YOU --
-- I'VE WORKED UP PART OF A THEORY ON THAT...
THREE WEEKS AGO. THE WEST SIDE.
WE WERE, Um, WONDERING, Mr. FISK. WHEN DO YOU THINK WE MIGHT EXPECT...
...AN INCIDENT?
FISK SPICES WAREHOUSE
YOUR EMPLOYERS ARE ANXIOUS MEN, MISS PORTAL. THEY MUST LEARN TO ENJOY THE DAY... TO SAVOR THE MOMENT!
LOOK THERE.
LOADING
ISN'T THE WATER BEAUTIFUL?

GOVERNMENT PLAZA.
NOT BAD DROPPING THE GUARDS, BUSHWHACKER!
THANKS! I --
'COURSE ME, I'D HAVE DONE THEM IN ONE SHOT!
FWISSHH
QUITE THE TALENT, AREN'T YOU, BULLSEYE?
SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP THE TOP SEAT WARM! THIS GONNA TAKE LONG?
TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR WORK...BUT DON'T BE TAKEN IN BY YOUR OWN PRIDE! THAT'S A SIN.
TWRRNK
YEAH. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
BIOHAZ
I MEAN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO SCREW UP MY CHANCE AT HEAVEN...
BIOHAZA
HE DOESN'T NEED TO SEE HIS CITY TO LOVE IT.
FOR THAT, HE'S GOT HYPERSENSES.
FIERCELY HONED, RADICALLY ENHANCED TASTE-TOUCH-SOUND-SMELL.
RACING DOWN FIFTH, A SYMPHONY OF BRAKES-HORNS-RUBBER-RUMBLE-PAVEMENT.
SALTY-HOT PRETZEL VENDOR MUSTARD, TIMES-SQUARE SOUR-SWEET.
LOVERS' PERFUMES, GYPSY SPICES BUBBLE UP FROM THE VILLAGE, PUNGENT AND EXOTIC.
EIGHT MILLION SOULS CHARGING CONCRETE AND STEEL WITH NOWHERE-BUT-NEW-YORK ENERGY.
AND POISON.
POISON IN THE WATER.
IT GUTS HIM.
VIOLATES HIM.
REMINDS HIM HE'S GOT NO REAL CONTROL OVER THOSE SENSES.

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE ALWAYS ON OVERWHELMING.
POISON.
THICK AND FOUL AND BLISTERING.
HIS ONLY DEFENSE --
-- DISCIPLINE --
-- RESTORE THE ILLUSION OF AUTHORITY --
-- MAKE IT SELECTIVE.
FOCUS.
IN THE WATER.
SEPTEMBER
THERE.
FROTHING IN THE PIPES. EAGER TO BOIL FREE.
THICK.
FFEE
FOUL.
BLISTERING.
CAN THIS DAY GET ANY MORE BORING?

KRKASH
YOU OKAY?
I -- I SPILLED --
COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY.
POISON.
IN THE WATER.
PUH-LEEZE... WHAT NOW?
YOU KNOW, THOR BLEW OUT THE POWER IN MY CO-OP LAST WEEK!
DON'T YOU PEOPLE HAVE LIVES?
FROTHING.
BOILING.
EAGER.
I TAKE IT THAT'S A "NO"...
ONE MAN CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE.
BUT HIS SENSES CAN.
OVERWHELMING --
-- FIERCE --
-- STABBING DEEP.

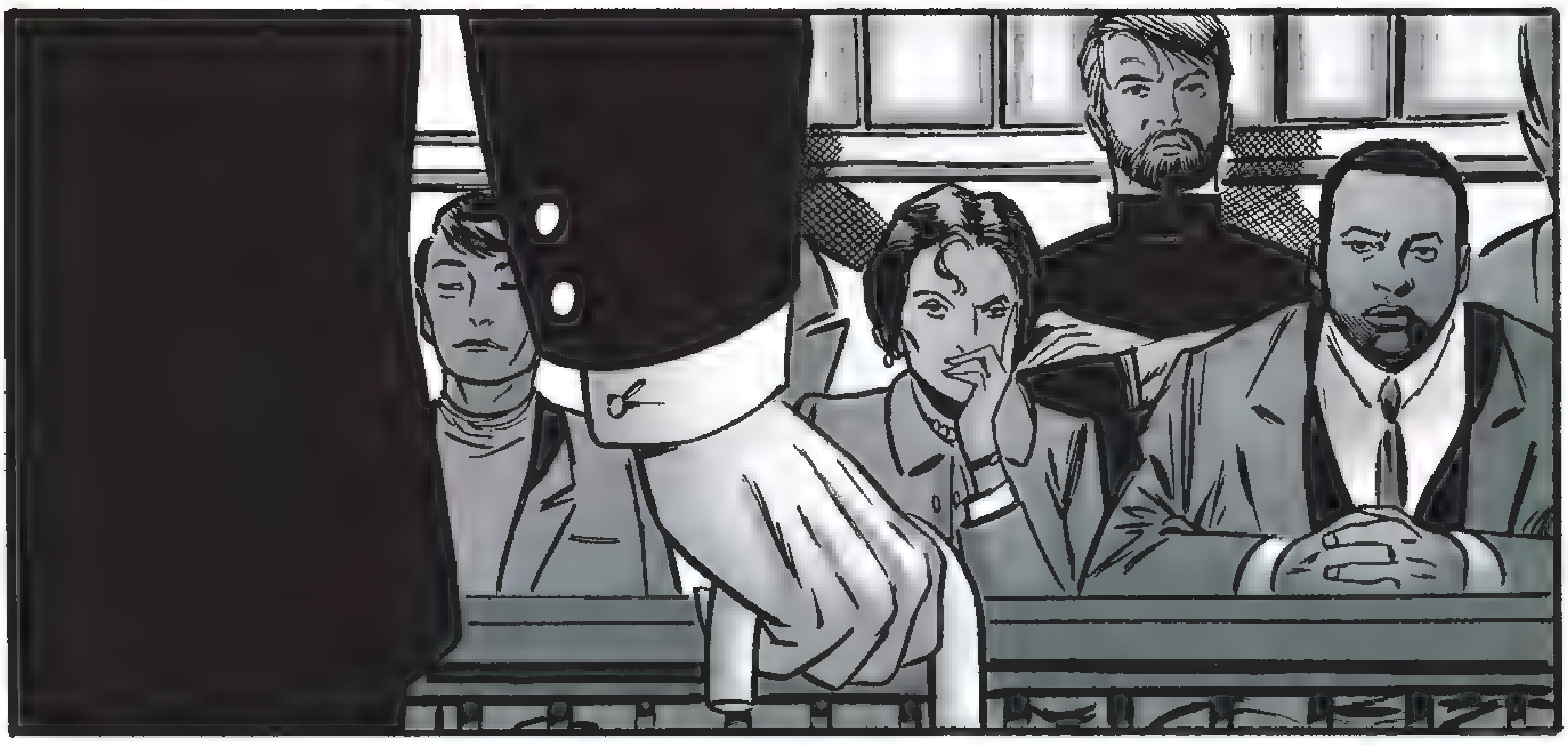
HER TEMPERATURE FLARES, SCORCHES.
MUSCLES GO SOFT -- ROTTEN --
-- BREAK APART --
-- BREAK OPEN --
-- SPILLING COPPER-SCENTED BLOOD AND SLICK LIFE.
JUST AS QUICK SHE'S GONE -- TEMPERATURE DIVING --
-- CRASHING --
-- DEVASTATING AND FINAL.
RE
ALARM
AAROOO
REPORTS CONTINUE TO STREAM IN FROM GOVERNMENT PLAZA --
-- PERHAPS AS MANY AS TWO DOZEN DEAD, WITH MORE THAN THAT NUMBER CRITICALLY --
-- LIVES SAVED BY THE QUICK INTERVENTION OF DAREDEVIL --
-- A SELFLESS UNION OF E.M.S., S.W.A.T., AND HAZMAT TEAMS HAVE CONVERGED --
SUBURB
RESCUE SQ
OLICE
ATF
WE NEED TO TALK, RED...
I'M IN NO MOOD FOR A Q&A, MALPER... EVEN WITH A FEDERAL D.A.!
THEN AGAIN...HOW IS IT YOU'RE ON THE SCENE SO QUICK?
GROUP 41 GOT A TIP-OFF TO A TERRORIST ATTACK -- PROBABLE MIDDLE EASTERN INVOLVEMENT!
HYPERSENSES AGAIN.
EVERYWHERE.
AN ECHO OF WELL-KNOWN AND HEARTLESS HEARTBEATS.
THE BRUTAL SCENT OF OLD ADVERSARIES.
EM
THAT INFO COULD BE WORTH JUST WHAT YOU PAID FOR IT...
GOT YOUR OWN THEORY?
MORE LIKE A VENDETTA.
B


TODAY.
WEST THIRD STREET. HELL'S ANGELS' LOCAL 427.
SO I'M TOOLIN' BY THE **PIERS** AND -- **BADOOM!**
133RD OFF LENOX.
-- AN' I'M THE MAN TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT **SINKS** THAT **BOAT** --
JACKSON HEIGHTS, QUEENS.
MY BOY, THE **DAREDEVIL,** HE SLIP ON **BOARD...**

FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.

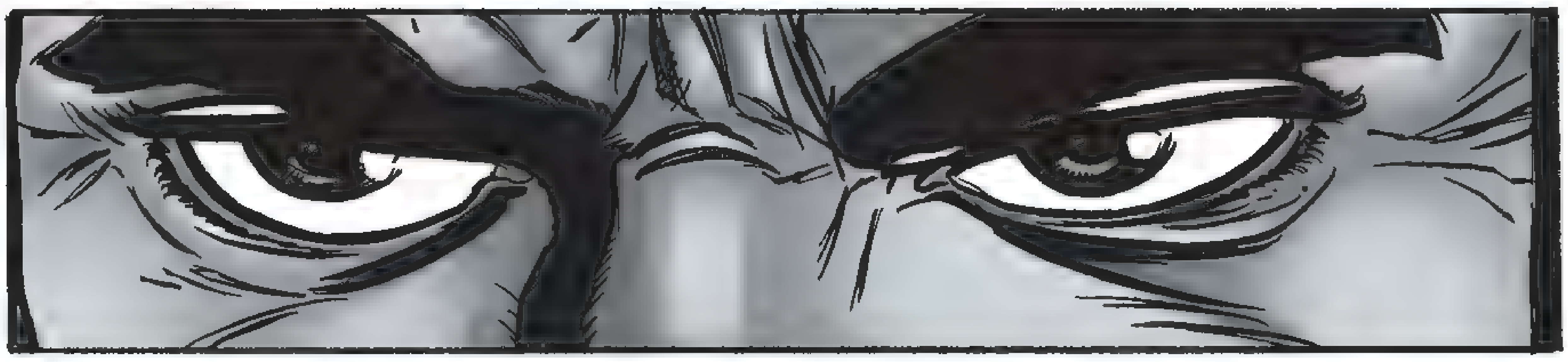
"WHY DID I TAKE ON THE DEFENSE IN THIS ***CASE.*** SIMPLE ANSWER: BECAUSE I ***KNOW*** PARLAN FARHOODY TO BE ***INNOCENT.***

"THAT'S NOT ENOUGH, THOUGH. THERE HAVE TO BE ***FACTS.*** FACTS WHICH I'VE SHARED WITH YOU TO USE AS YOU ***DISCOVER*** THE ***TRUTH.***



"JUST REMEMBER THAT SOME ***TRUTHS*** ARE ***MORE TRUE*** THAN ***OTHERS.***"

"IT'S ***HUMAN NATURE*** THAT WE EACH ***CREATE*** OUR OWN ***VERSION*** OF THE ***TRUTH.***



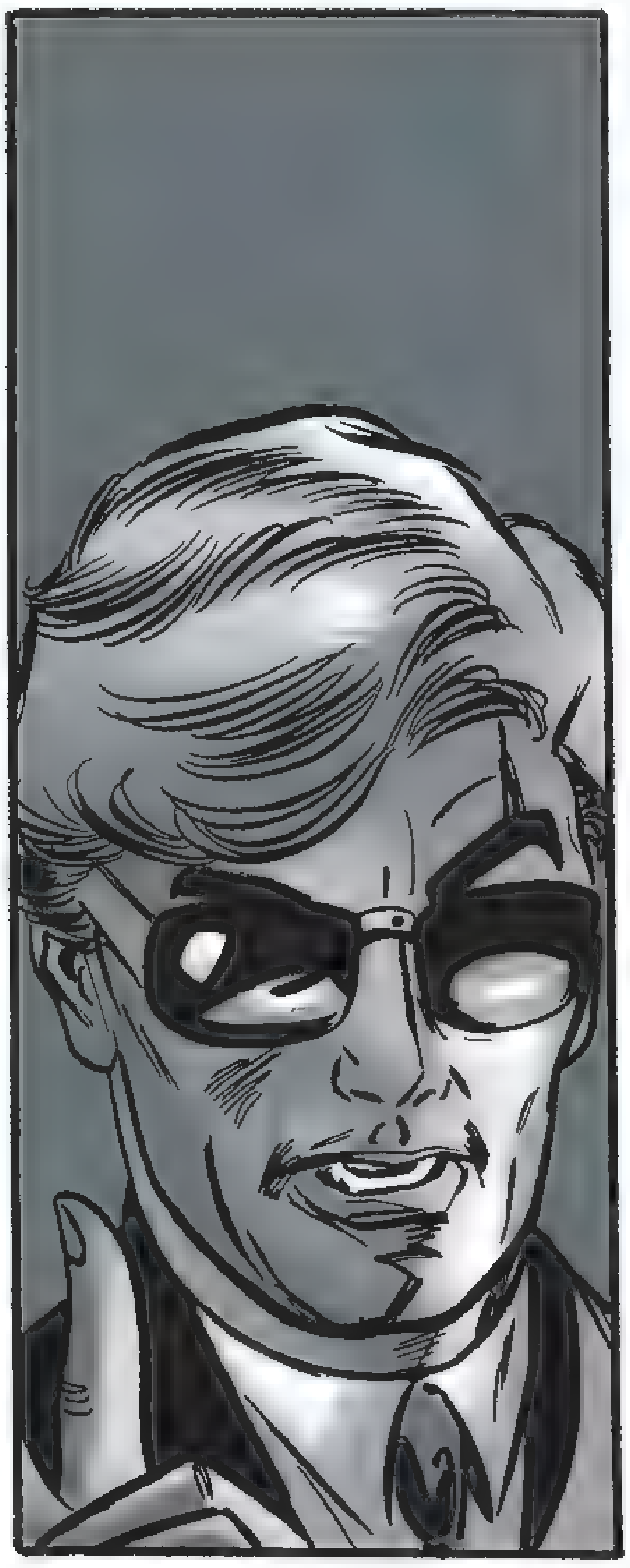
"BUT YOU NEED TO ***FOCUS*** ON A ***TRUTH*** THAT, SELF-EVIDENT AS IT SHOULD BE, CAN BECOME TOO EASILY LOST.

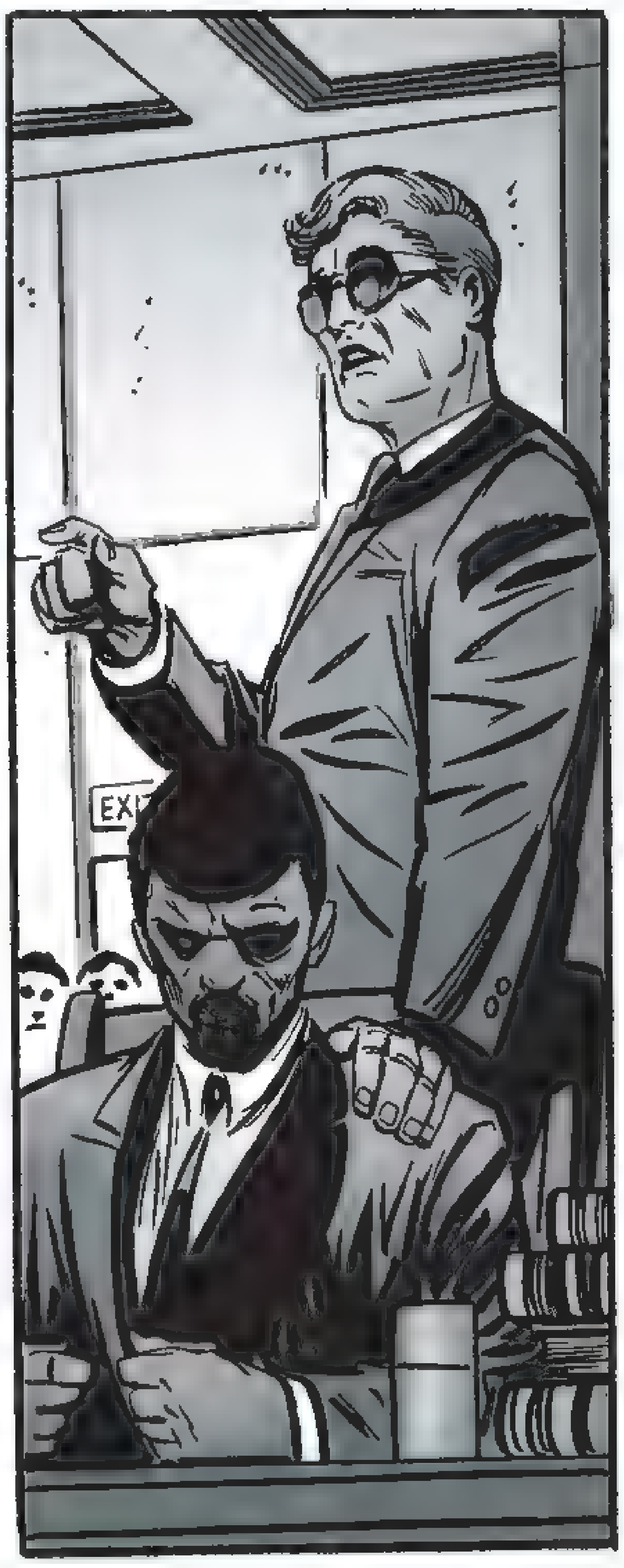
"ALL ***MEN*** ARE CREATED ***EQUAL,*** ESPECIALLY IN THE EYES OF THE ***LAW.***

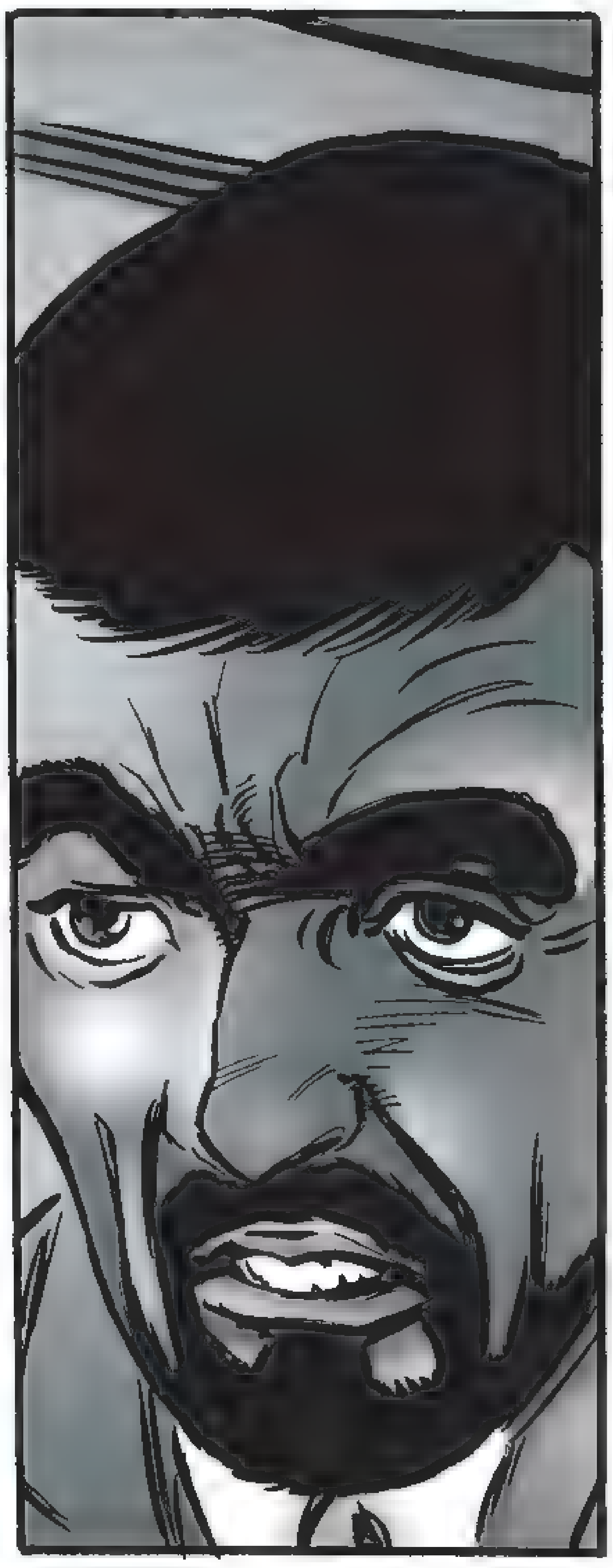
"AND YOU ***OWE*** IT TO YOURSELVES AND OUR ***SYSTEM*** TO TREAT MY CLIENT WITH ***EQUALITY.***

"WITH ***FAIRNESS.***

"AND WITH ***JUSTICE*** FOR ***ALL.***"







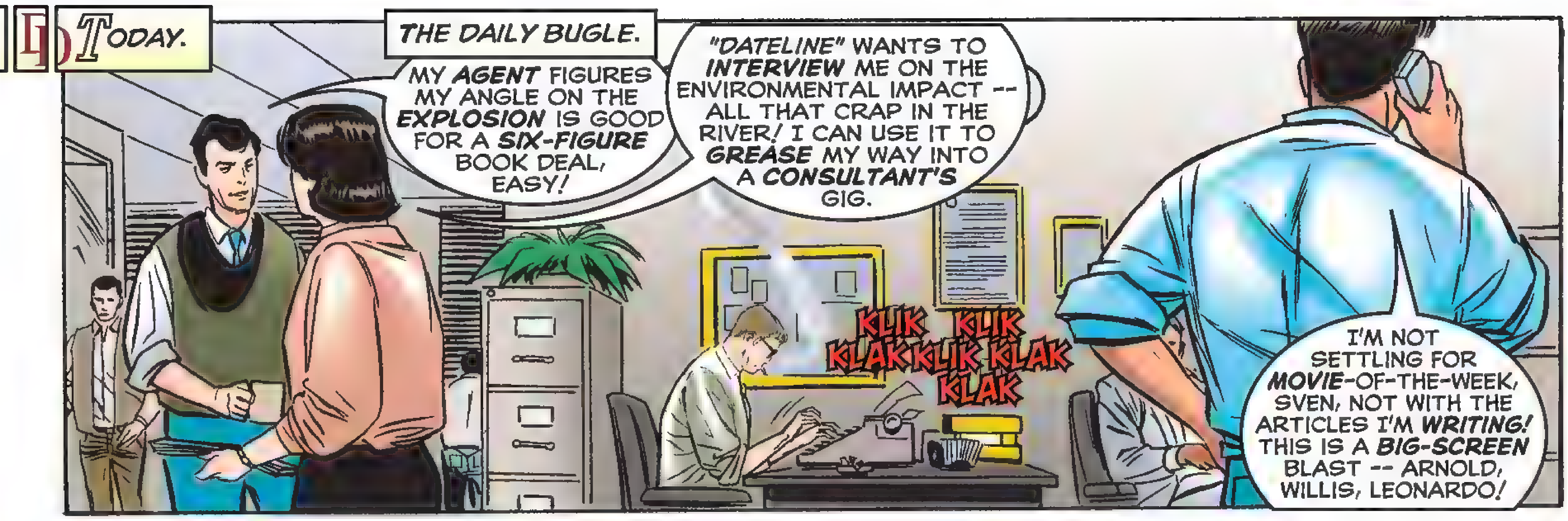
TODAY. HELLS ANGELS CLUB-HOUSE.
THIS -- YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS! I'M TALKIN' THIS IS SO **SWEET!**
ALL THESE **HARD-CASES,** THEY'RE OUT ON THE **WATER** WITH THE REST OF THE **SEWAGE...**
SKR
LAST NIGHT.
-- AND THEN THE LADY SAYS TO THE GUN DEALER, *"JUST 'CAUSE* ***YOU'RE PACKING HEAT*** *DON'T MEAN YOU'RE* ***HOT STUFF!"***
SPEAKING OF HOT, IT WAS SUCH A **SCORCHER** TODAY I SAW THE **HUMAN TORCH...** AND HE WAS **SWEATING!**
DON'T SWEAT IT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A **PERMIT** FOR ALL THIS **FIREPOWER** -- I'M SURE IT'S AN HONEST **MISTAKE!** I KNOW YOU BUNCH WOULD **NEVER** DO ANYTHING **ILLEGAL!**
HA HA HA HA
HEH HEH
HA HA
SO...IS THAT A **PISTOL** IN YOUR **POCKET,** OR ARE YOU JUST **GLAD** TO SEE ME?
ACTUALLY... **BOTH!**
THAT DAREDEVIL, HE **SLAYS** ME...OR VICE-VERSA!
A TIGHT-FITTING **COSTUME** JUST GIVES A WHOLE NEW **DIMENSION** TO STAND-UP **COMEDY,** DON'T YOU THINK?
MUCH AS I HATE TO KILL AND RUN... LET'S **BLOW** THIS **RUSTBUCKET,** GENTLEMEN! **LITERALLY...**

TODAY. ALONG 133RD STREET.
YEAH... THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
MAN, YOU BEEN **USIN'** IF YOU BELIEVE THAT **STORY** YOU TELLIN'!
LISSEN UP, I **KNOW** WHAT I'M **TALKIN'** ABOUT --
LAST NIGHT.
Oh **DANG!**
FIVE-Oh!
IT'S DAREDEVIL!
DON'T **MAKE** ME HAVE TO **KILL** YOU.
HE'S **MESSIN'** WITH OUR **HEADS...**
CHILL. LET'S TALK THIS OUT LIKE --
W-WORD.
DON'T MAKE ME HAVE TO **KILL YOU.**

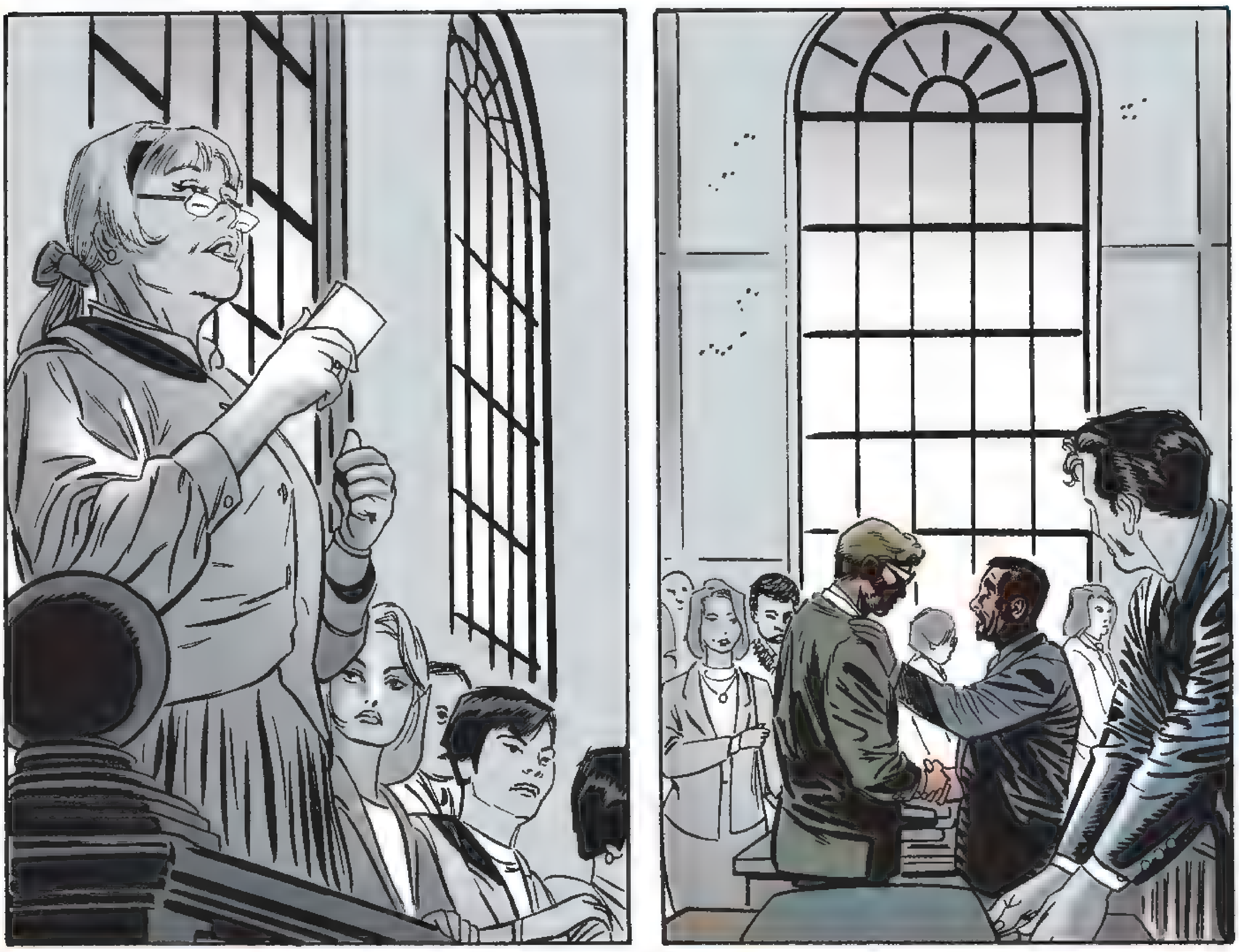
THIS *AIN'T* LIKE *YOU*, KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'? THIS AIN'T --
DON'T MAKE *ME* HAVE TO *KILL* YOU.
CCCP
HOME BOY'S *CRAZY!*
WE GIVE UP WE *GIVE UP* WE GIVE --
YOU *BUGGIN'*, MAN, YOU SERIOUSLY --
FWKROOOOSH

DD TODAY. QUEENS.
-- SO HE SAYS HE CAN MOVE AS MANY OF THESE AS WE GIVE HIM!
YO! CHECK THIS 10-CHANGER CLARION CD PLAYER!
I'M TRYIN' TO TELL YOU ALL A STORY HERE...
DD LAST NIGHT.
YO! CHECK THIS AT-X-15 KRIZANTEMA, LASER GUIDED WITH A NUKE!
BRATROOOM
WE BEEN FOUND OUT!
BY THE DAREDEVIL!
NOT DAREDEVIL... NOT ANYMORE!
THE NAME'S DEATHDEVIL!
AND I'M HERE TO SEND YOU ALL TO HELL!
DD

YOU IN FOR SOME SERIOUS HURT, MAN!
THAT THE BEST YOU BOYZ GOT?
'CAUSE WE AIN'T IMPRESSED!
PTAANG
KTWIING
KTANG
"WE"? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIEND...
VRZEEEK
TRAKATOOM


TODAY.
THE DAILY BUGLE.
MY AGENT FIGURES MY ANGLE ON THE EXPLOSION IS GOOD FOR A SIX-FIGURE BOOK DEAL, EASY!
"DATELINE" WANTS TO INTERVIEW ME ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT -- ALL THAT CRAP IN THE RIVER! I CAN USE IT TO GREASE MY WAY INTO A CONSULTANT'S GIG.
KLIK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLAK
I'M NOT SETTLING FOR MOVIE-OF-THE-WEEK, SVEN, NOT WITH THE ARTICLES I'M WRITING! THIS IS A BIG-SCREEN BLAST -- ARNOLD, WILLIS, LEONARDO!

FEDERAL COURTHOUSE.



*IT'S IN HER OWN HANDWRITING. BUT EVEN AS SHE **READS** IT ALOUD, THE FOREPERSON CAN'T QUITE **BELIEVE** IT.*

"WE FIND THE DEFENDANT ***NOT GUILTY!***"

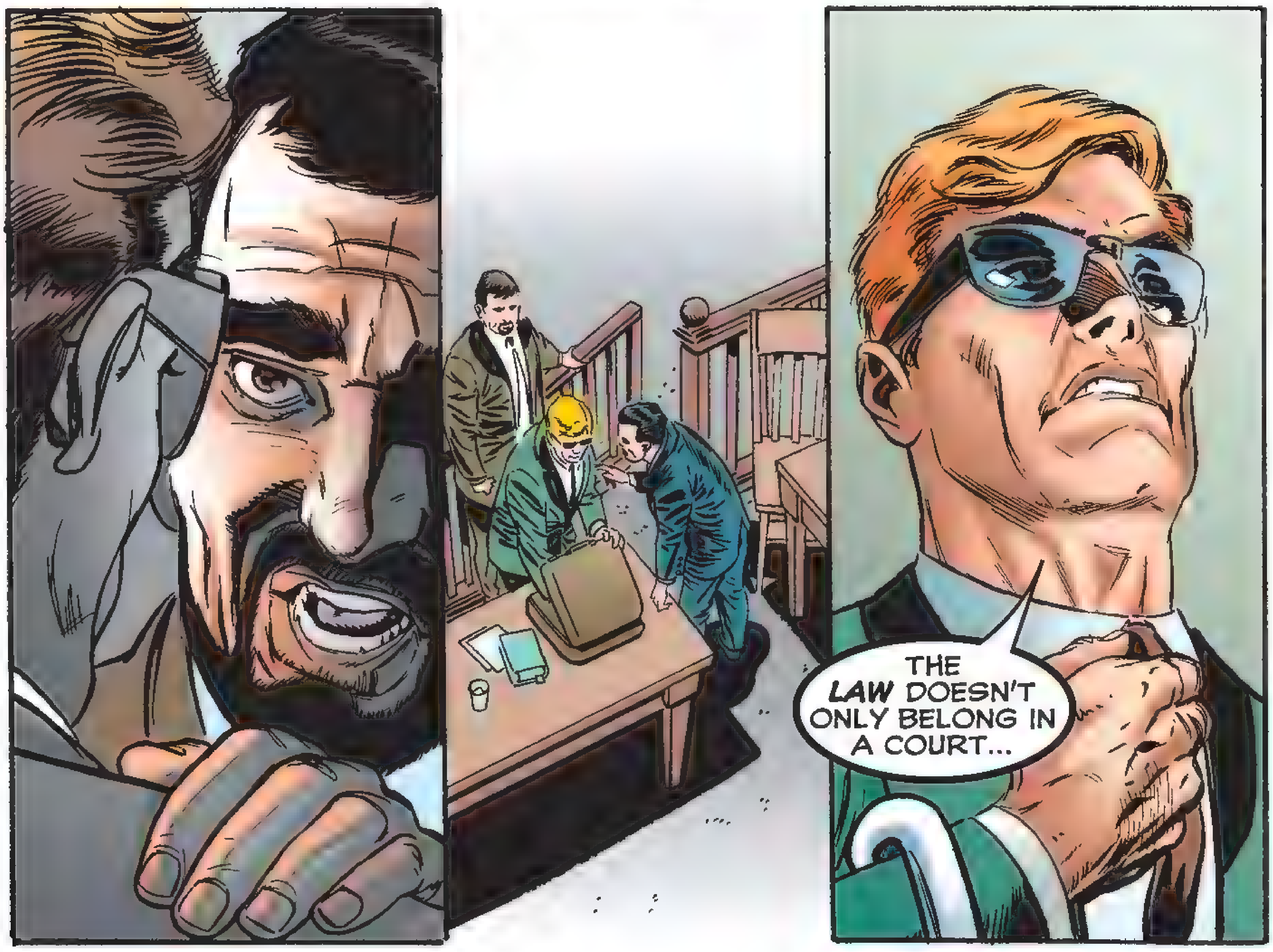
"THIS COUNTRY WAS ALL ABOUT A NEW START, Mr. MURDOCK -- FOR ME...MY WIFE... THE SON AND DAUGHTER SHE'S BLESSED US WITH.

"THEN, SO QUICK -- IT ALL SEEMED TO BE ***OVER!*** IT ALL SEEMED ***AGAINST*** US.

"EXCEPT YOU. YOU ***BELIEVED*** IN YOUR ***SYSTEM.*** YOU BELIEVED IN ME.

"YOU ***GAVE*** US BACK OUR ***CHANCE,*** MATTHEW. THANK YOU FOR HAVING ***FAITH.***

"AND THANK YOU FOR ***RESTORING*** MINE."


THE LAW DOESN'T ONLY BELONG IN A COURT...

"YOU'RE A ***PIECE*** OF ***WORK,*** MURDOCK!"

*THE PROSECUTOR **SPITS** THE WORDS.*

"DO YOU KNOW HOW ***HARD*** WE HAD TO WORK TO ***PUSH*** THIS TRIAL THROUGH SO QUICK?

"AND FOR WHAT? YOUR ***RECKLESS*** GRANDSTANDING?

"YOU ***DON'T BELONG*** IN A ***COURT*** OF ***LAW!***"

THAT VOICE AGAIN. STERN-WRY-STORMY.

*SAY YOUR PRAYERS. SIGN YOUR WILL. CROSS AT **RISK.***

THE DAILY BUGLE.
NEW YORK NOIR... by Ben Urich
The reason I took up SMOKING was to have something that would CLOUD out the STINK of my publisher's cigars.
DOES ANYONE 'ROUND HERE WORK ANYMORE?!
YOU CALL THIS REPORTING?! WHAT DO I PAY YOU PEOPLE FOR?! ULCERS?!
I CAN GET THOSE FROM THAT WEB-HEADED MENACE FOR FREE!
The city's currently dealing with another kind of cloud: FALLOUT from last night's explosion.
It's a blanket of INTRIGUE, hanging low and dark.
Never shy with an opinion, New Yorkers have plenty of ideas on how to NAVIGATE the murk.
Greed, politics, conspiracy, mirth, murder: they're all points on the COMPASS. And they all point to the TRUTH.
Of course, being a New Yorker, I've got my own OPINION about what it might be...
LAST NIGHT, 11:02 P.M.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK. ON THE HUDSON.
THE NAME OF OUR VESSEL ROUGHLY TRANSLATES AS "THE PROPHECY" --
-- AND I PREDICT OUR RESPECTIVE SHARES OF HER CARGO WILL ALL BE PUT TO...
CCCP
...GOOD USE!

IT APPEARS OUR ***SCAPEGOAT*** BROKE ***FREE*** OF ITS PEN.
Ms. PORTAL HAS ASKED FOR THE RETURN OF HER ***DOWN-PAYMENT!***
DREAM ON. TELL HER TO STICK IT IN HER --
BIOHAZARD
RENDER UNTO CAESAR THAT WHICH IS CAESAR'S...RENDER UNTO US THAT WHICH IS ***OURS! NO REFUNDS!***
I TOLD HER IF SHE HAD A ***PROBLEM,*** SHE COULD TAKE IT UP WITH EACH OF US PERSONALLY!
PERSONAL'S JUST THE ***WAY*** I ***LIKE*** IT.
WHO...?
CHOIR BOY.
DRESSED LIKE THE DEVIL.
YOU'RE TO BE ***CONGRATULATED*** FOR FINDING YOUR WAY HERE, VIGILANTE...
...BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO ***CONNECT*** US WITH ANY OTHER -- ***INCIDENT*** -- THAT ***YOU MIGHT LIKE TO*** BLAME US FOR!
IN THE ***EYES*** OF THE ***LAW*** --
IT'S WHAT I ***SEE*** THAT ***MATTERS,*** FISK!
I SEE 27 ***MURDERS.*** A CITY TORN BY ***TEARS*** AND ***RAGE.*** ONE MAN'S LIFE CLOSE TO ***DESTROYED.***
AND FOUR ***JACKALS*** HUNGRY FOR ANOTHER ***CARCASS.***

FEEDING TIME'S OVER.
KWRNKNNK
YOU HAND ARE ALL THE SAME --
-- A LITTLE HARSH LANGUAGE AND YOU'RE UP IN SMOKE!
FWROOSH
JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY TO THE REST OF YOU ANIMALS...
YOU IDIOT!
I'M NO ANIMAL! I'M ONE OF GOD'S CREATURES!
BRAKA
HIT THE DECK, FAT MAN! BUSH-BABY'S LOST IT!
EVERYBODY MAKES MISTAKES.
YOU'RE ONE MAN, DAREDEVIL -- ONE MAN AGAINST UNLIMITED AMMO!
FIRE AT WILL...
...FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, YOU MAY AS WELL BE SHOOTING BLANKS!

NOW WHAT?
ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...
... A FUSE.
THAT PSYCHO-HORNHEAD'S SET THE SHIP TO BLOW!
WE GOT PROBLEMS, FAT MAN!
COULD BE A COUPLE OF KILOTONS WORTH...
WE MUST PRESENT A CONCERTED EFFORT, BULLSEYE, OR --
FWRAAK
KRTAAK
YOU'RE ALL WELL PAST THE "OR" STAGE HERE!

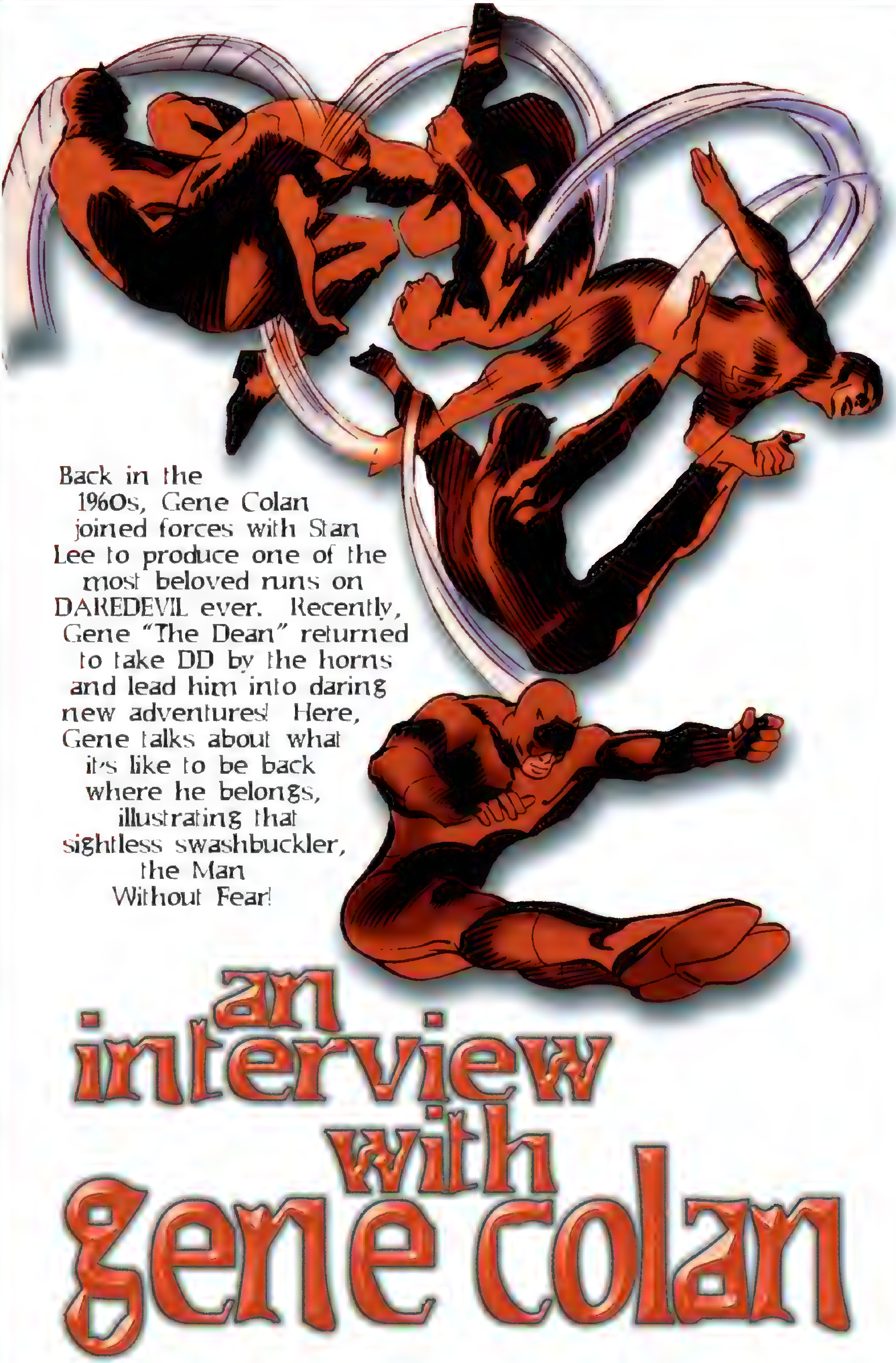
STKRKRAAAASH
FWOOK
I ALLOWED YOU YOUR LEGAL VICTORY, DAREDEVIL --
-- DON'T PRESUME THAT GIVES YOU ANY RIGHTS UNDER THE REAL LAW OF THIS CITY!
DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD WE HAD TO WORK FOR THIS PRIZE?!
AND DO YOU EXPECT I'LL LOSE IT TO YOUR RECKLESS GRANDSTANDING?
IS THIS YOUR WAY OF SAYING YOU'VE MISSED ME?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HASN'T IT, WILLIE?
BUT NO SLOW DANCE AROUND PORT AUTHORITY THIS TIME.
AND NO FORGIVENESS.

TWOOM
DANGER EXPLOSIVE
BRAKA BRAKA
I'M STILL HERE, DAREDEVIL!
SAFETIES OFF, BARRELS HOT!
I'M STILL HERE, STILL FIRING STILL--
I'M COUNTING ON IT.
KWGRAAK
GIVE ME A HAND WITH SOMETHING, BUSHWHACKER.
I FORGOT TO BRING MATCHES...
NOOO
LET GO LET --
BUDDA BUDDA
FWRIIIISH

FWRIIZZQSSH
TWOOM!
YOU'VE -- YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN, DAREDEVIL!
NOW END THIS GAME! HOW MANY FUSES ARE THERE? HOW DO WE STOP --?!
I'M NO KILLER...
... BUT YOU MURDERED 27 MEN AND WOMEN. YOU TORE THEIR FAMILIES APART.
I'M NO SAINT, EITHER.
BUT MAYBE THERE IS A WAY OUT OF HERE FOR YOU AND THE REST. IF YOU MAKE IT, IT WON'T BE WITH ANY OF YOUR "PRIZE."
AND I GUARANTEE IT WON'T BE EASY.
YOU'LL BLEED -- YOU'LL SCREAM -- YOU'LL BURN.
I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER... UNLESS YOU LIVE. THAT'S EVEN BETTER.
BECAUSE THEN YOU'RE WHERE I CAN KEEP REMINDING YOU OF TONIGHT... AND YOUR MISTAKES.
IT LEAVES YOU WHERE I CAN KEEP THE WOUNDS FRESH.
TWOOM
WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE, FISK? DIE HERE LIKE A COWARD... OR TAKE THE RISK?
I DARE YOU.
FWRIISSH FWIISSH
FWRIIZZQSSH

TODAY. 38TH OFF 10TH.
THE DA
BUGLE
No Clear Blame
Mystery EXPLOSION
POSSIBLE SUSPECTS?
HELL'S KITCHEN.
M-MATT...
HELLO, MAGGIE.
KEEPING UP WITH THE *NEWS?*
I CAN GET BETTER *DIRT* FROM MY POTTING SHED. DO YOU FOLLOW THE *HEADLINES?*
NOPE. *HURTS* MY *FINGERS.*
WHAT BRINGS YOU AROUND?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT'S ON *SPECIAL?*
"FORGIVE ME, LORD, FOR I HAVE --?"
HAVEN'T WE ALL.
THE TRUTH IS... MY *EARS* ARE *BURNING* FROM ALL THE TALK ON LAST NIGHT. MY *HEAD'S SPINNING* FROM A CASE I'VE BEEN DEFENDING.
I GUESS I CAME HERE WANTING TO *FOCUS* ON SOMETHING... *IMPORTANT.*
SPECIAL.
SOMETHING I WANTED YOU TO BE A PART OF...
AND WHAT'S THAT, MATTHEW?

"ICE CREAM!"
I THINK THIS IS YOURS -- ROCKY ROAD! YOU'VE GOT MY HEAVENLY HASH!
HEY... THIS IS PRETTY GOOD!
WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT **BIBLE** TALK ABOUT **SHARING?**
THEY **WEREN'T TALKING** ABOUT **ICE CREAM!** NOW GIMME...
You want to know the TRUTH?
The GOOD GUYS don't always win.
But because of WHO they are, they NEVER STOP FIGHTING.
There's ALWAYS a DAREDEVIL willing to take a RISK on our BEHALF.
And in a CITY that NEVER SLEEPS, we can all REST EASY knowing we have that to protect us.
CHICHESTER & WEEKS '98



Back in the 1960s, Gene Colan joined forces with Stan Lee to produce one of the most beloved runs on DAREDEVIL ever. Recently, Gene "The Dean" returned to take DD by the horns and lead him into daring new adventures! Here, Gene talks about what it's like to be back where he belongs, illustrating that sightless swashbuckler, the Man Without Fear!

an interview with gene colan

> " i saw some of jack kirby's work— i couldn't believe that human hands had touched it."

Gene Colan has been penciling ever since he was three years old! Born in the Bronx in 1926, Gene recalls, "I think I was at the age of three when I began to show some ability to draw. The first thing I ever drew was a lion, from what I'm told! (laughter) I was always drawing. It was my favorite thing."

As a child, Gene was inspired by the work of such comic strip artists as Milton Caniff, Harold Foster, and Colton Waugh, who did a strip called Dickie Dare, which Gene cites as his favorite. "I just lived to see how Dickie Dare made out the following day!" (Ironically, Gene would later wind up working on the HOWARD THE DUCK newspaper strip in the 1970's—but only for about six months! Today he notes, "We just couldn't keep the deadlines up! It was impossible!")

So determined was Gene to become a comic book artist that he applied for his first job at DC Comics at the age of 13! Although he wasn't ready for the big time yet, the art director at DC gave Gene a lot of encouragement. "At that time, it wasn't like it is today," Gene remembers. "Somebody would come out to the waiting room and talk to you, look at your work."

Gene realized he wasn't cut out to be a pro on his trip through the DC Bullpen! "I saw some of Jack Kirby's work—I couldn't believe that human hands had touched it. He drew so beautifully that, at that point, there was no way that I could measure up to it."

Gene was advised to go to art school for a few years, and he did so—though he got out of it as quickly as he could! Notes the man ironically nicknamed "The Dean", "School and I never got along!" Gene left school to join the Air Force in 1946, shortly after World War II had ended. He was assigned to the Philippines, where he worked for the Manila Times, drawing scenes of army life from a G.I.'s point of view. Overall, Gene rates his whole tour of duty as "a great experience."

After a year in the service, Gene returned to the States to pursue his dream of becoming a comic book artist. He relates, "The day I came home, the first place I went to was Marvel. I was about 19 or 20. I met Stan [Lee] for the first time, and he was only three years older than me. There he was, sitting in his office with a beanie cap!"

Stan hired Gene on the spot, starting him out with romance and gangster stories, and then war stories a few years later, as the Korean War kicked in. Gene worked steadily, until "the comic book business fell apart in the fifties. It was difficult to get work." Gene reluctantly left the field and went into advertising —a move he was not happy with. "I didn't like it. I don't like working on just one picture. There's no continuity to it. It's just a picture."

One day, Stan called Gene to say the comics were making a comeback. "I began to pick up work here and there. Before you knew it, I was back into it!" Gene credits his wife, Adrienne, with giving him the encouragement to leave advertising and return to comics. He notes, "When I got married, I wasn't even working at the time! (laughter)"

Gradually the comic book industry recovered, and Gene rose to fame as one of Marvel's top artists of the sixties, most notably for his thirty-plus issue run with Stan on DAREDEVIL. Gene calls DAREDEVIL his favorite series of all time, because "the mood isn't all serious. There's a little tongue-in-cheek humor with Foggy. I think that every story should have a little bit of humor in it."

Gene credits Stan Lee with two significant developments: 1) taking a chance on new talents, and 2) giving them the freedom to tell a story their own way. "Stan had a lot of foresight. He could see down the line. There were a lot of people that started out just when I did—John Buscema, for one. He was willing to take a chance on them. Also, he left the artist pretty much alone. He would dictate a short story over the phone, and let (the artist) fill in all the spaces. It wasn't a fully-detailed script that he would write."

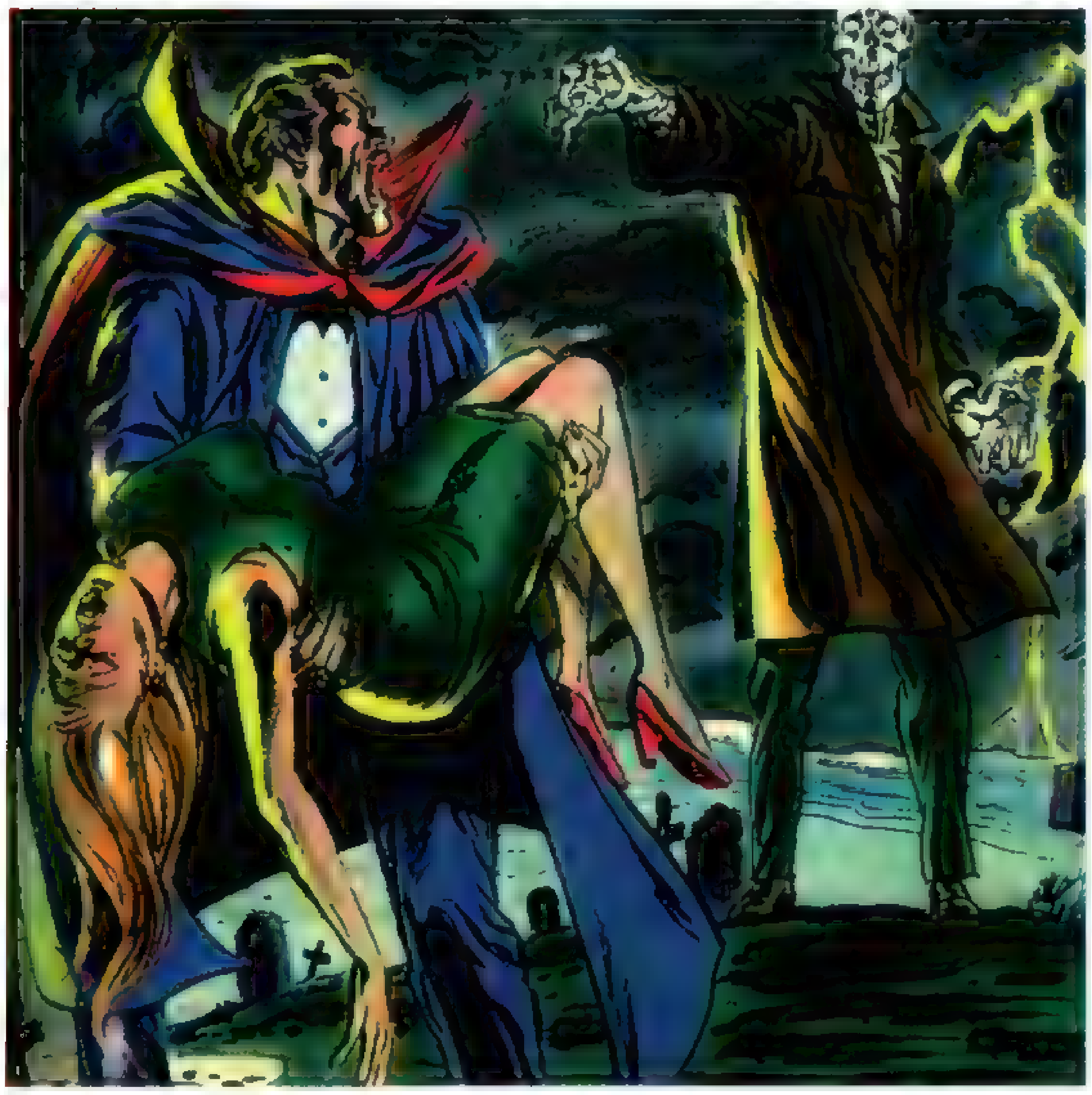
Gene continues to enjoy this sort of artistic freedom today. "It's kind of wide open for me. It gives me an opportunity to make things happen, and take a little liberty with (the story), which is nice. I have a lot of freedom at Marvel. It used to be that way with Stan, and it kind of continued that way."

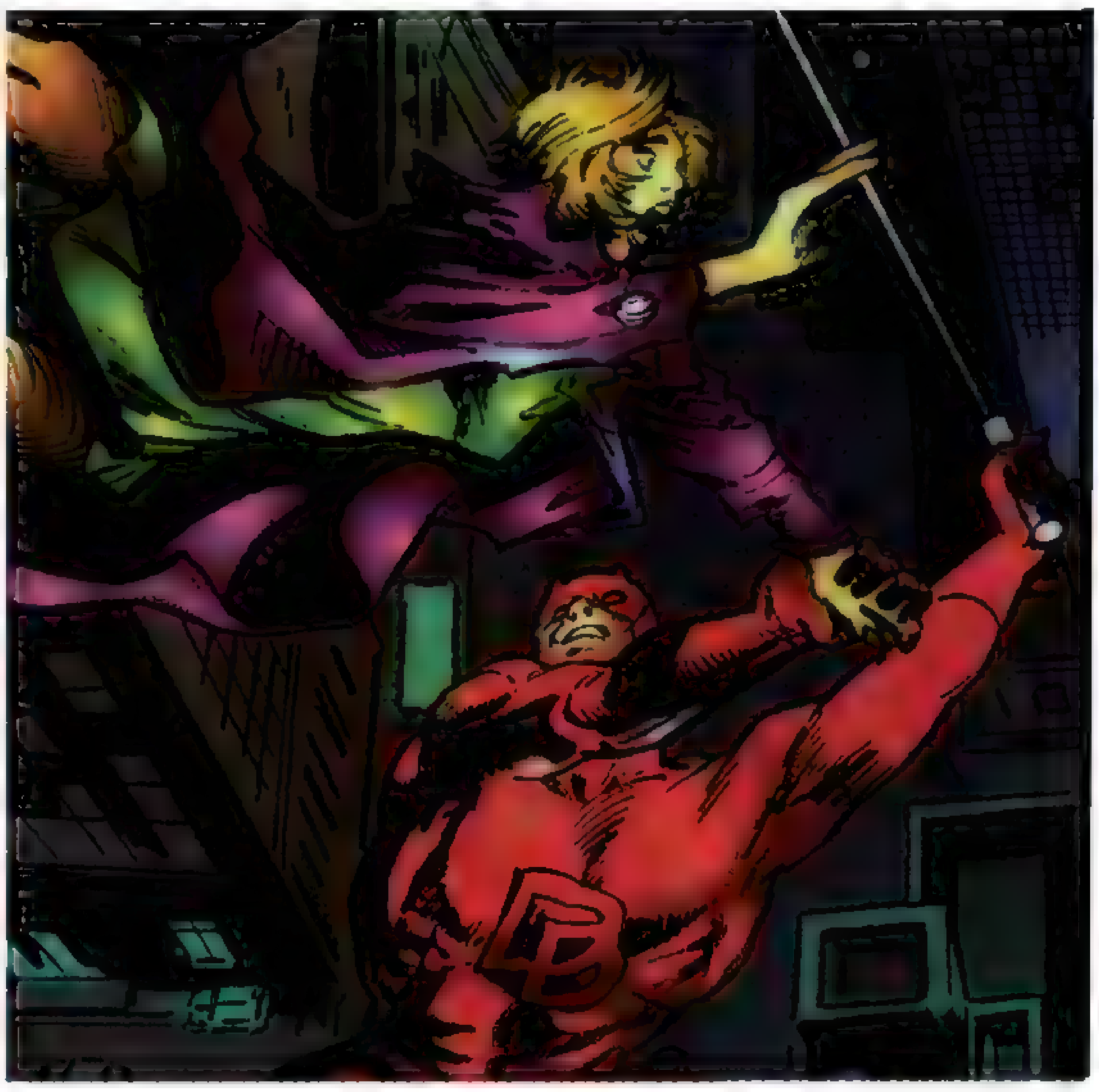
Although Gene has gained quite a reputation for his work on mystical books like DR. STRANGE and horror titles like TOMB OF DRACULA, he said his favorite type of stories to draw are super hero books. "I love the super heroes. I like working with the same character over and over again. When you become familiar with a character, you develop it more and more. It becomes part of you. You put as much realism as you can into it."

As much as he liked working on such titles as DAREDEVIL, IRON MAN, and CAPTAIN AMERICA, one series he never developed a fondness for was the SUB-MARINER. "That was one book I never enjoyed doing! Namor is difficult to draw, because he's got a flat head! It's hard for me to make him a good-looking character without rounding out his head! Also, the book had underwater scenes which I didn't really care about."

Because of his affinity for stories set in real places, Gene admits to a lack of affinity for the science fiction genre. Gene did note that "I love westerns! Maybe one day, they'll come back!"

Other than DAREDEVIL, the series Gene is most associated with is TOMB OF DRACULA, which, as he notes, "I did with Marv (Wolfman) for 11 or 12 years!" Gene has fond memories of TOD, explaining, "I like the atmospheric work. I kind of became known for it. Shadows and dark areas." Gene raved about his frequent collaborator, Tom Palmer, who inked a huge chunk of his TOD pencils. "He interpreted my pencils beautifully."





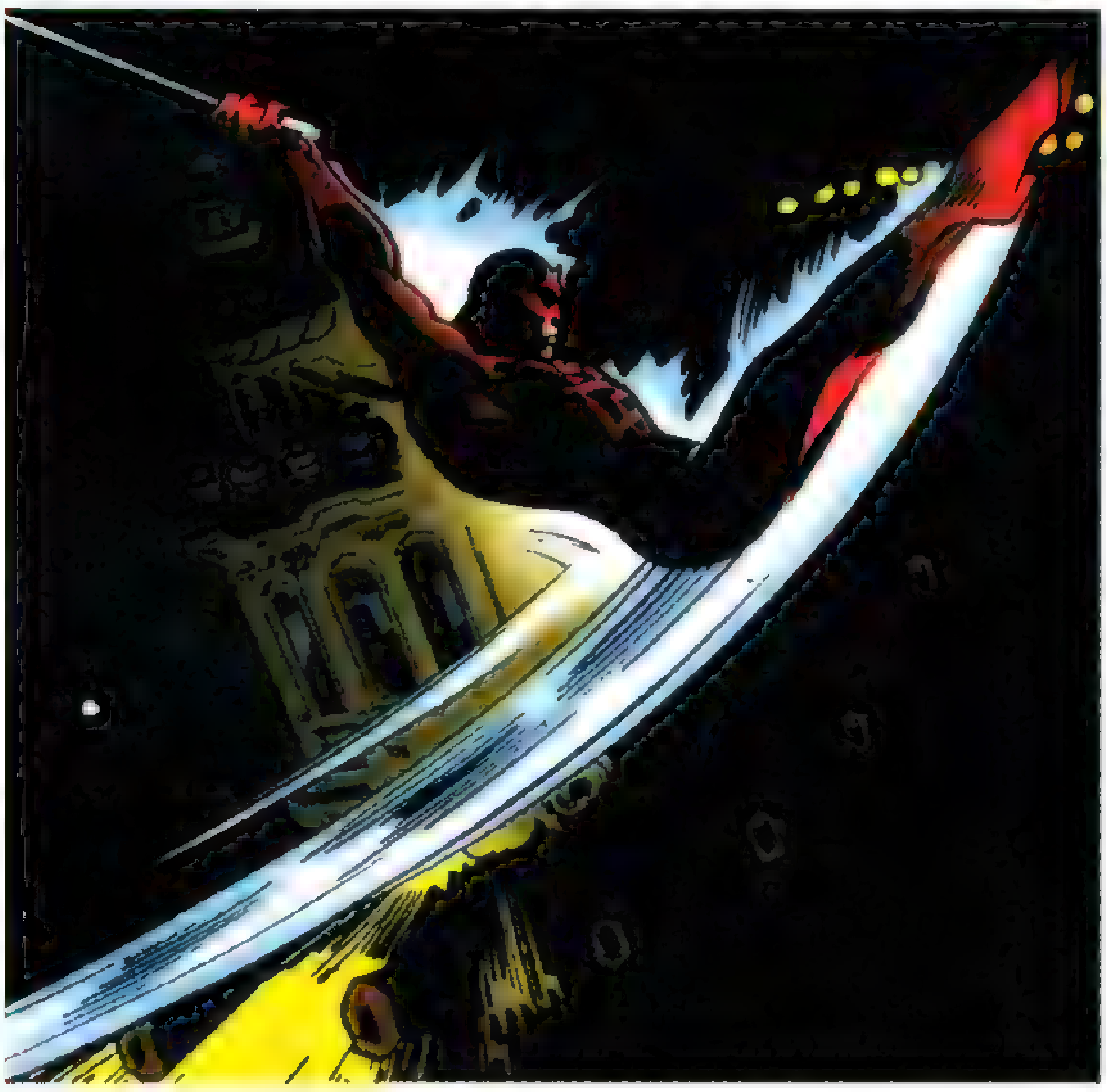
Another inker whom the Dean gives high marks to is Al Williamson. "He has a nice, loose, free flowing style. I'm not the easiest penciler to interpret, because I put in a good number of half-tones and gray areas."

Gene says his "flair for the dramatic" in his art stems from his love of movies. "I'm a big movie buff. I had always gone to the films when I was a youngster." This cinematic upbringing has had a significant effect on Gene's comic book work. "Every penciler really is a film director. He casts the characters, sets the stage, sets the lighting, and tells the story. If I had to do it over again, I would have done film."

Part of Gene's love of film comes from his boyhood stints working as an usher at some New York theaters, where he watched the same movies hundreds of times. "I'm highly influenced by the stories that I've seen in the past in movies." Among the movies that have most influenced his work are "Warner Brothers pictures with Humphrey Bogart and John Garfield...The Maltese Falcon...Mike Hammer movies... There was always rain in those films. Next time you see one of these movies on television, look for bad weather! I liked that. It added to the film, it helped with the drama. Film noir was big on that."

"The private detective in a dank, dark place, with slimy walls and stuff like that would add so much to the atmosphere." Gene found that transferring this atmosphere to his comic art gave his pages an added degree of realism. "Even if it wasn't written in the scripts, I would just have it rain occasionally. Because life is like that!"

Explaining his realistic approach to comics, Gene revealed, "I try to make it as real as possible so that the reader can relate to it, even though it's a cartoon." Whether a story is set in San Francisco or on top of the Empire State Building, Gene takes pictures and does the research. He feels "it makes the character come alive, almost as if he really does exist. Everyone knows that he doesn't, but for a moment, I'd like for people to walk around the city and think, 'Maybe he really does exist!' And then I'd like them to look up and say, 'Maybe I can spot him!'" (laughter)



These days, Gene still watches a lot of movies, only now he watches them on laserdisc, which, as he notes, is "the best way to show them." He professes a special fondness for black and white films. "You could make a point with black and white a lot better than you could with color."

Recuperating from recent eye surgery, Gene is in good health and happy to be back at the drawing board. "I'm enjoying every minute of it! I'm up there in years, but it's good and healthy to be working. I don't know what in the world I would do with myself if I didn't work!"

Although he makes his home in Vermont these days, Gene still occasionally makes the trip into New York to teach at two Manhattan art schools: FIT and his old alma mater, the School of Visual Arts. He thinks the most important lesson for young artists to learn is "Patience. They want to hit the big-time right away." Gene sympathizes with young artists who are just trying to break into the business today. "It's hard for these guys. I feel for them. I really do. It's a tough road—but you gotta hang in there!"

His career started out inspired by "Dickie Dare," and currently he's back drawing DAREDEVIL; clearly Gene Colan is not afraid to take a dare. His artwork covers such diverse projects as the "funny" HOWARD THE DUCK, the "psychedelic" DR. STRANGE, and the "atmospheric" TOMB OF DRACULA.

Having illustrated such a wide variety of characters, it is a certainty that whatever project he chooses next, it will definitely be daring! Truly Gene Colan is a penciler without peer!

–Barry Dutter

BUSY KID JOE

Article excerpt from *Marvel Vision #22*

By Mark Bernardo

MB: So you're actually still in school, right?

JK: Well, actually — I just graduated! About three weeks ago, I got my Masters Degree from NYU.

MB: And the Masters was in...?

JK: It's an MFA in Dramatic Writing.

MB: Dramatic Writing, huh? What is it that made you want to write funnybooks?

JK: (laughing) Well, I've been a fan, like, forever! And I've always wanted to be involved in comics in one capacity or another. I used to fancy myself as an artist, and even majored in art as an undergrad. I kinda gave up on that in the end, though! When I graduated from Binghamton, I decided to try the creative writing route.

MB: So what similarities are there between screenwriting and writing for comic books? If there are any...

JK: Oh, absolutely! Besides the overall basics of story structure and character development — the things that transcend the medium to some degree — there's just the fact that you're playing with a highly visual medium. The same way you would convey ideas to a director, you convey ideas to an artist. It's also knowing you have complete access to all space, time, and location just like in a movie.

MB: One of your newer ongoing assignments is DAREDEVIL. Were you a longtime fan of that character?

JK: Definitely a fan of the Frank Miller issues! And yeah, a fan of the character in general, too. I've always loved the fact that he was blind. That's always fascinated me. And I've always thought the origin story was great.

MB: So it seems like what you're doing in that book is going not so far into the "dark side" as Miller, but not so far into the swashbuckling super hero stuff that your predecessor, Karl Kesel, was doing either.

JK: Right. I think there is a middle ground that can be struck between the two. I mean, Miller more or less defined the "dark" stuff in DD. I feel like any time you approach that, it reads like a knockoff of his work. I also don't think that completely serves Daredevil's character, because he did start out as a kind of flippant guy, way back when.

MB: People do forget that Miller did have him cracking jokes back at the beginning. It was in a darker atmosphere, but that part of his character was still there.

JK: Exactly. It all goes back to the duality of his personality. As Matt Murdock, he's so straitlaced and stoic, so he almost needs to be cracking jokes in his other identity. I've been playing it like whenever he's Daredevil, he's passionate. Whether he's passionately joking or passionately furious, it all reflects the same guy, the same personality. All the stuff that Matt suppresses — the promises to his father and all that — gets to come out when he's Daredevil.

MB: As I'm reading now, the Mr. Fear storyline is wrapping up. That one was set up by Karl, and you're taking it in your own direction. What do you have planned for after that?

JK: We've got the Black Widow story arc starting now, where we explain her new role as "the avenging Avenger." We explain why all that's really happening. There's a little more to it than her just being upset about the Avengers' deaths. Plus, we get a fun blast from the past with the Soviet Soldiers, and a really strange turn of events where Omega Red shows up.

MB: Whoa! How's little ol' Daredevil gonna take on Omega Red??

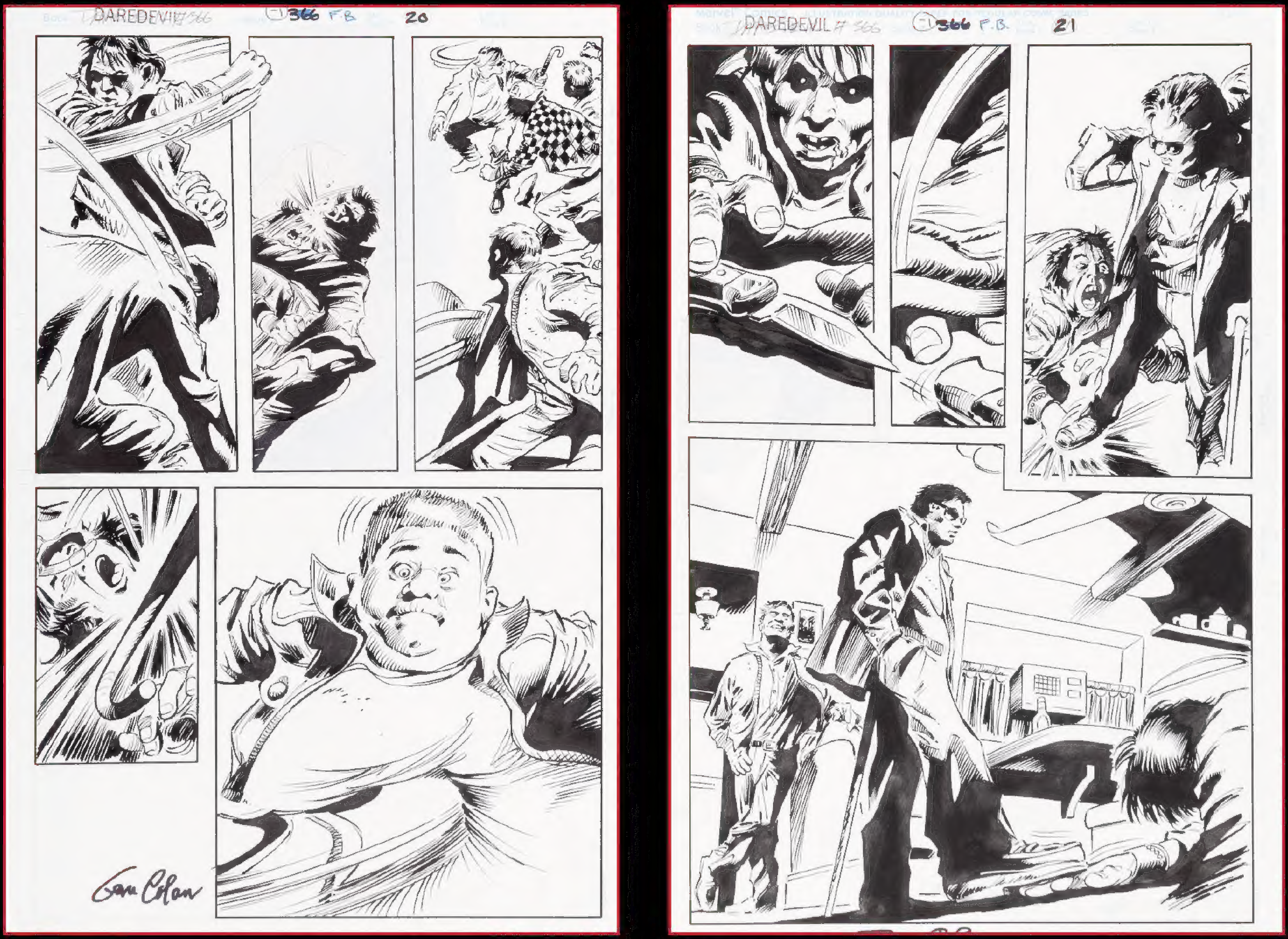
JK: Well, it's a cool, if convoluted thing — (laughs) — but basically it's all part of a master plan by the Widow. I'm pretty psyched, because I think the Widow should get a nice "boost" from this particular story arc. I really dig her! So we've got that, plus the Mister Fear storyline will have some long-reaching effects. In the prison riot that Fear caused, somebody escaped — somebody that people didn't even necessarily know was there. It's a new face, actually — but he has an effect on Matt and Karen. And we find out that Fear has an overall agenda as well. Plus, now that Norman Osborn has returned over in the Spidey books, that will be impacting things, because we have Foggy Nelson dating Norman's daughter-in-law Liz. Apparently, Osborn's gonna be forcibly taking back control of the chemical company that Liz is now running. There's been talk of a crossover with Spidey, and I think doing it that way would be nice, because it could grow organically out of the storyline, rather than just having these two heroes thrown together for no reason.

MB: You seem to be having a great time — and a measure of success — working in comics. Do you still see yourself moving into screenwriting at some time in the future?

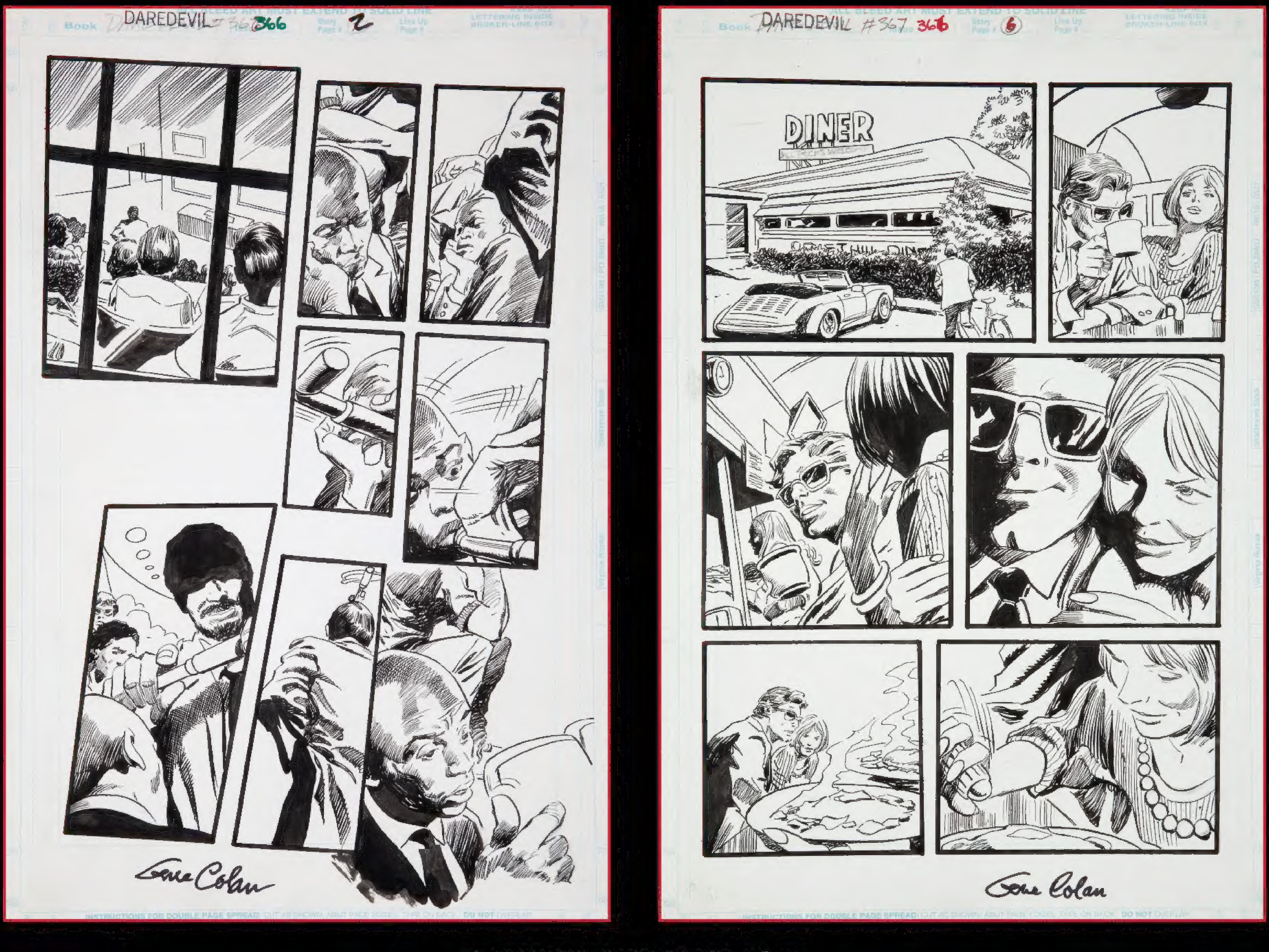
JK: It's hard to say. I'm so lucky, because getting out of school and walking into this job — it's just been spectacular. I'm going to stick with this as long as I can and as long as it's fun. I could see somewhere down the road going into film. Hey, even though I know the whole system is all political, deep down there's still that dream of winning an Academy Award! There are lots of different things I'd like to try — kids shows and the like as well — but right now, my plate is pretty full — and I'm pretty happy!

DAREDEVIL #-1 ~~366~~ FF 5
EXPRESS
K2284
Gene Colan
DAREDEVIL 366 8
Gene Colan
DAREDEVIL -1 FLASH BACK 14
Gene Colan
DAREDEVIL 366 15
Gene Colan

DAREDEVIL #-1, PAGES 5, 8 & 14-15
ART BY GENE COLAN & MATT RYAN
IMAGES COURTESY OF HERITAGEAUCTIONS.COM


DAREDEVIL #366
366 F.B. 20
DAREDEVIL #366
366 F.B. 21
Gene Colan

DAREDEVIL #-1, PAGES 20-21
ART BY GENE COLAN & MATT RYAN


DAREDEVIL 366
2
Gene Colan
DAREDEVIL #367 366
6
DINER
Gene Colan

DAREDEVIL #366, PAGES 2 & 6
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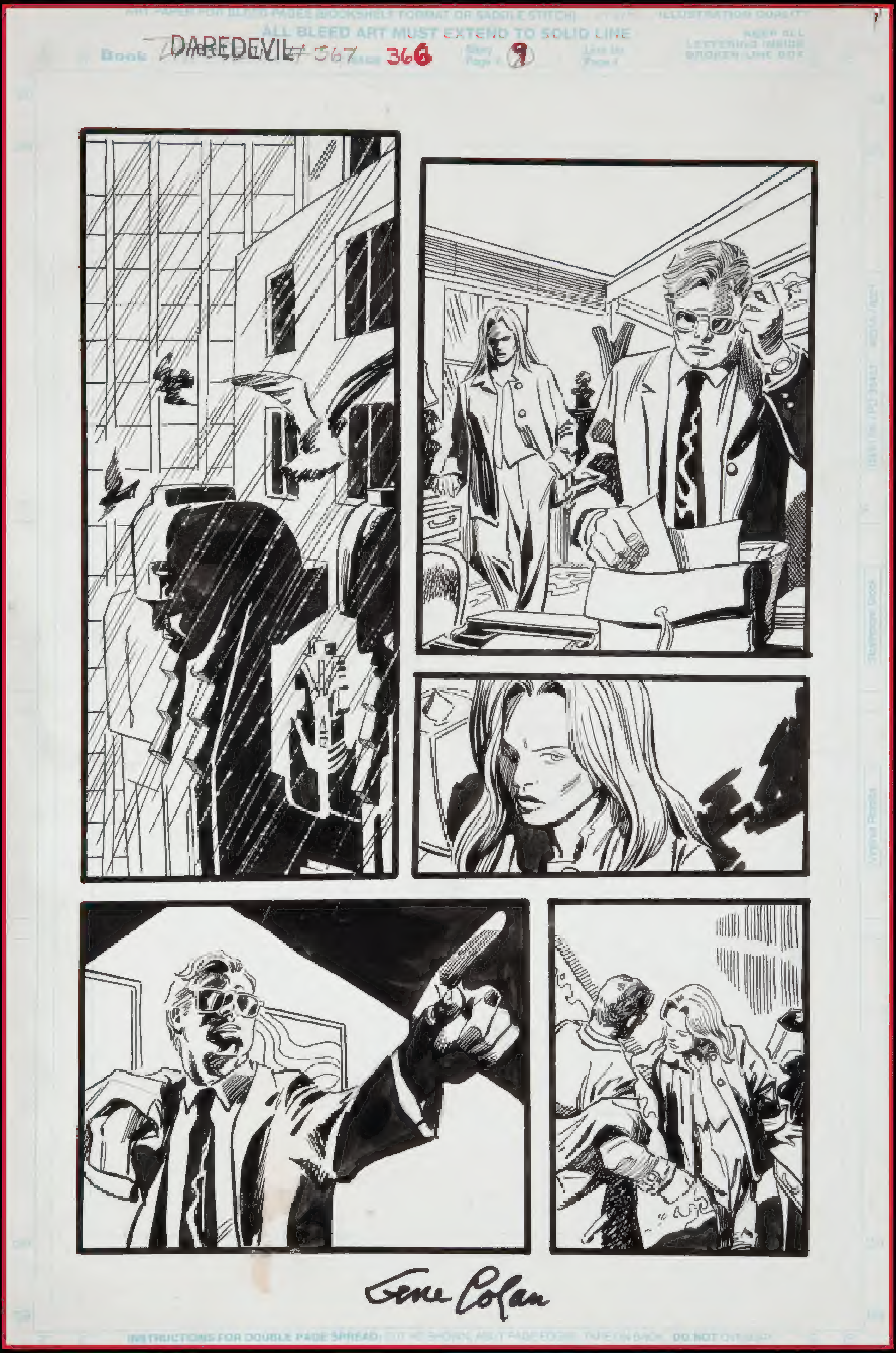
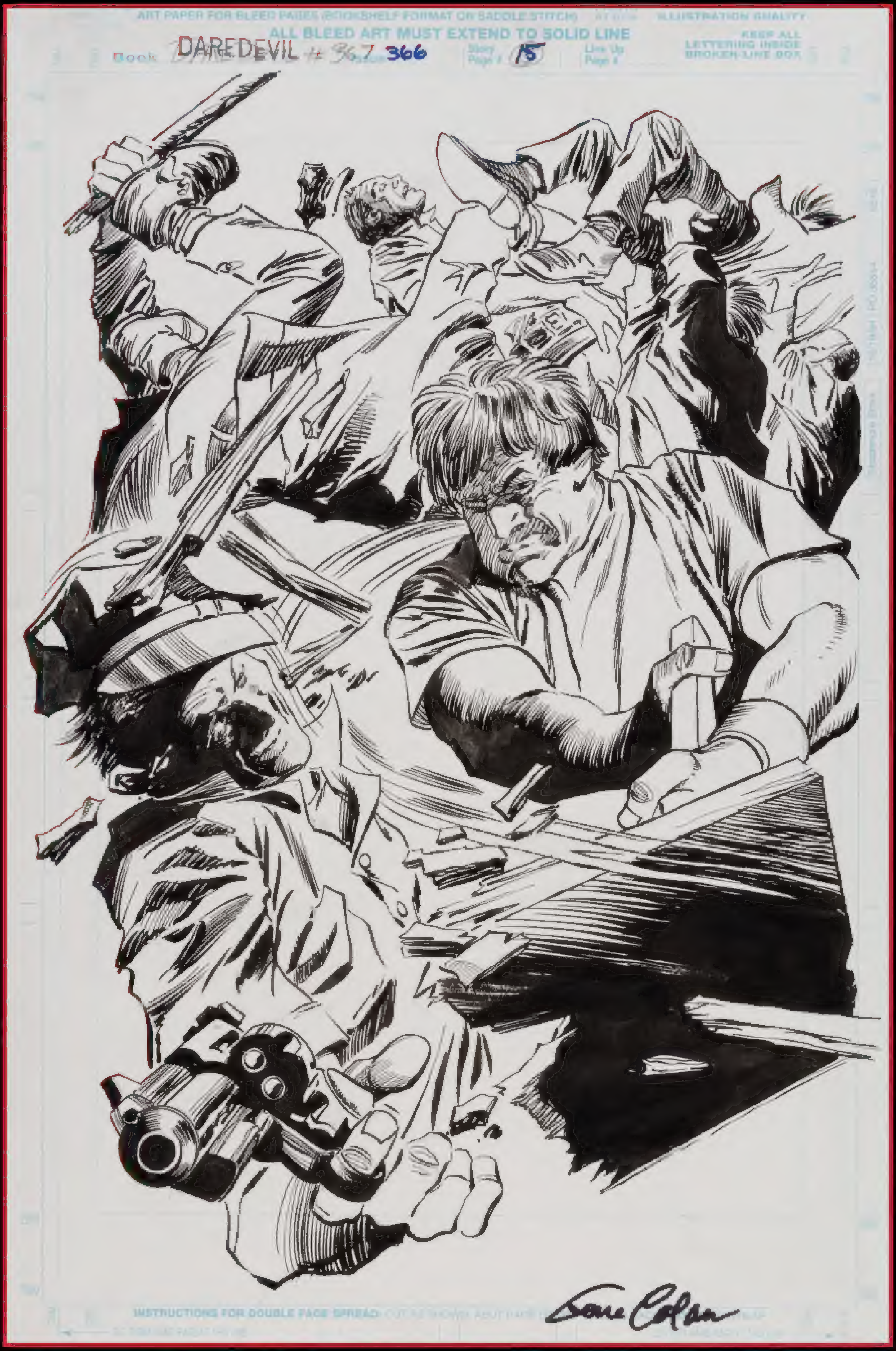
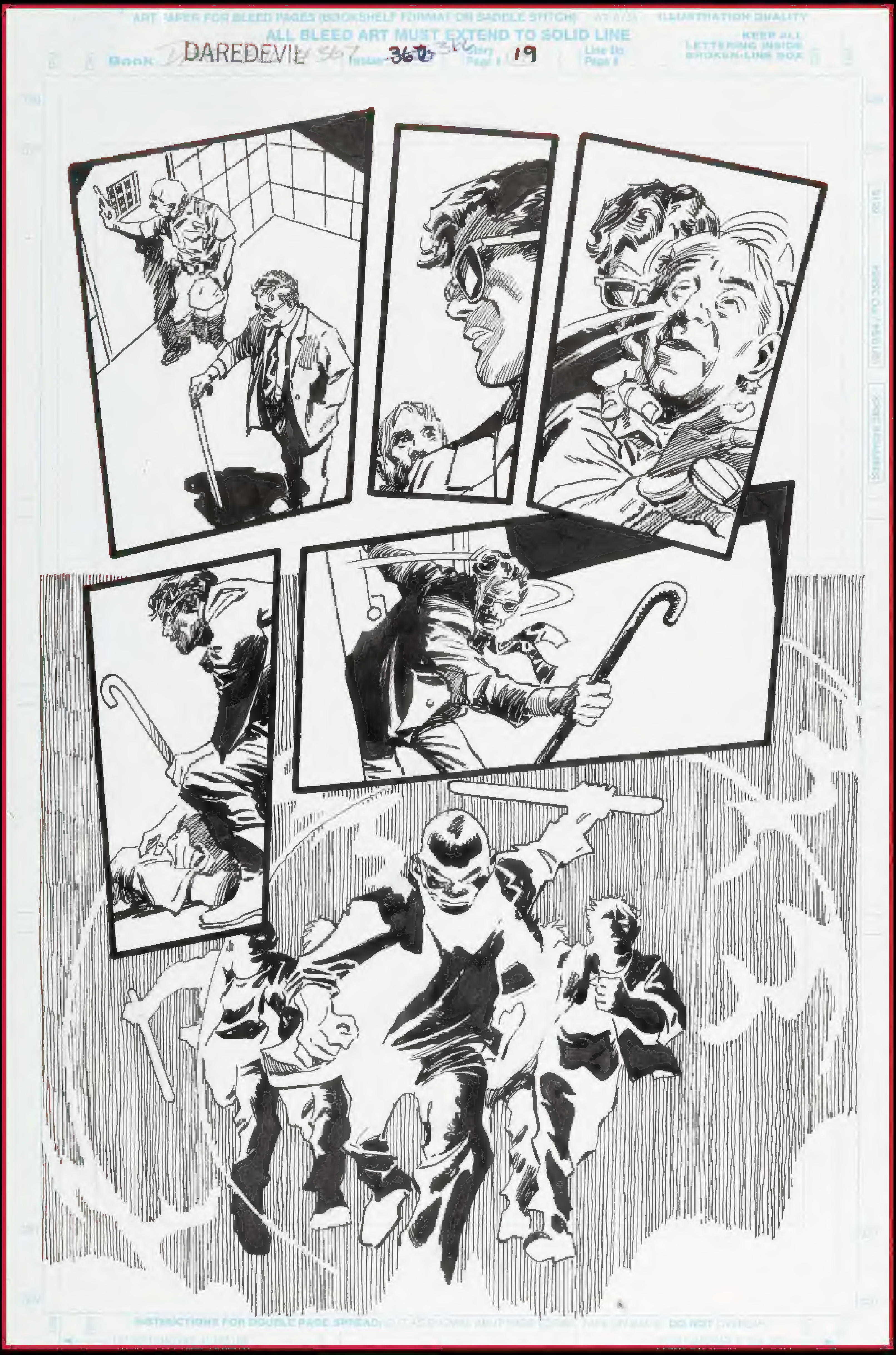

DAREDEVIL #367 366 9
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE
Gene Colan


DAREDEVIL #367 366 15
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE
Gene Colan

DAREDEVIL #366, PAGES 9, 15 & 19
ART BY GENE COLAN & AL WILLIAMSON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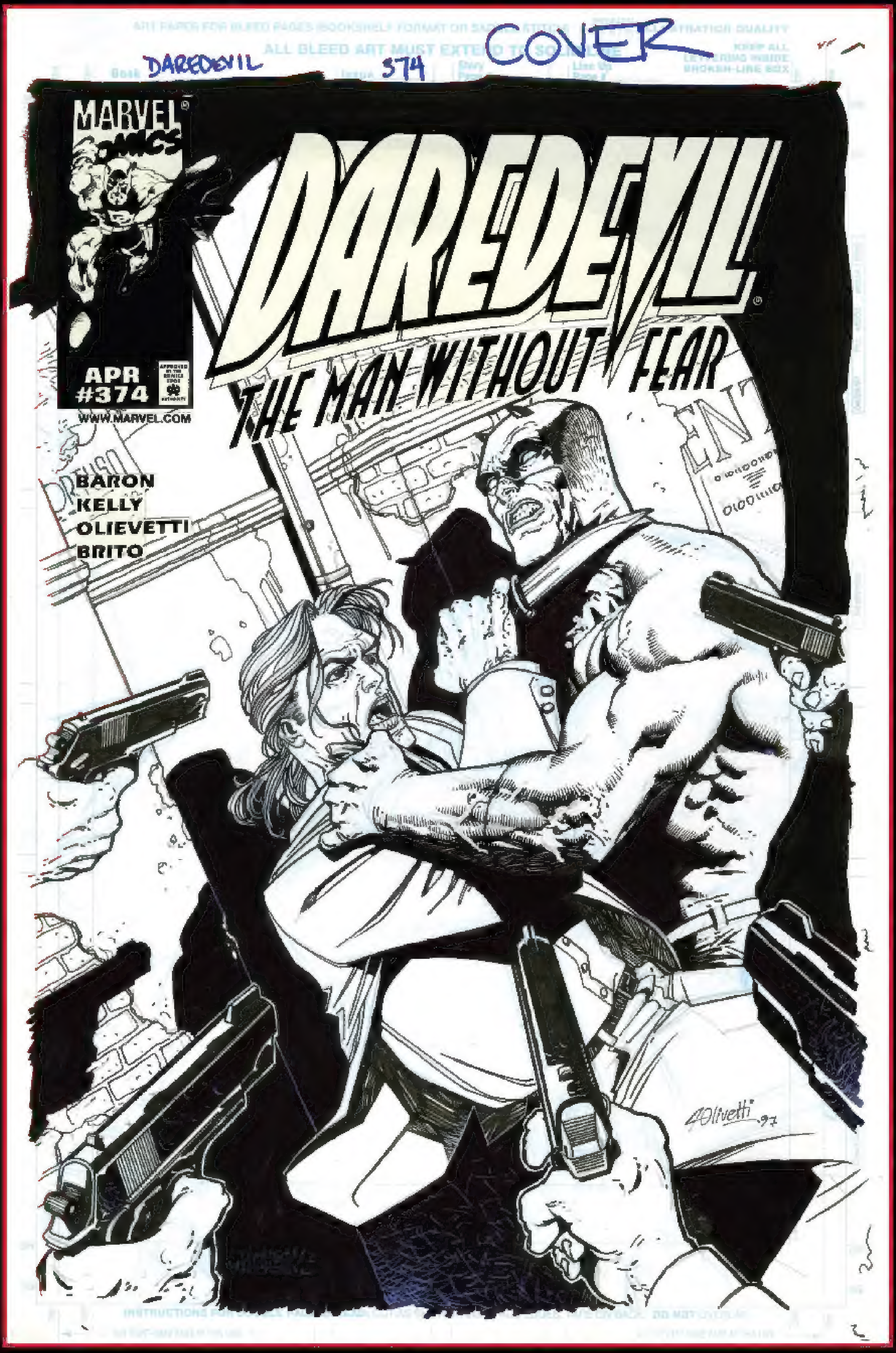
ALL BLEED ART MUST EXTEND TO SOLID LINE


DAREDEVIL 374 COVER
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Olivetti 97

DAREDEVIL #374 COVER
ART BY ARIEL OLIVETTI

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THE RETURN OF A LEGEND —
AND THE END OF AN ERA!

Gene "The Dean" Colan draws Daredevil once again as Mister Fear launches his latest campaign of terror! But when Matt comes between his angry ex-love Black Widow and evil mutant Omega Red, he'll feel more than the Widow's bite! What deadly game is the Avenger playing? And DD meets DP when Deadpool comes a-calling, but will Typhoid Mary make it an unholy love triangle? And what does it all mean for Deuce the Devil-Dog? Plus: Flash back to Matt Murdock's college years as he first meets Foggy Nelson! And how — and why — has Matt regained his sight?! Daredevil's first series hurtles to a finish, and it's going to end with a bang!

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DAREDEVIL #365-380 & #-1 AND DAREDEVIL/DEADPOOL ANNUAL '97

EPIC

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MARVEL

ZONE